



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE HANSARD

29th September 2026

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THE HANSARD**Tuesday, 29th September 2026***(The House met at 2.30 p.m.)**[The Speaker (Hon. Moses Wetang'ula) in the Chair]***PRAYERS****QUORUM****Hon. Speaker:** Serjeant-at-Arms, ring the Quorum Bell.*(The Quorum Bell was rung)*

Hon. Members, we now have quorum to transact business. Clerk-at-the-Table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR*(Several Members entered the Chamber)*

Members on your feet, take your seats.

(Hon. Raphael Wanjala stood along the aisle)

Member for Budalangi, take your seat.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTINGS AND
CONSIDERATION OF PRIORITY BUSINESS**

Hon. Members, I wish to welcome you back to the House for the Third and final Part of the Fifth Session of the 13th Parliament. It is my hope that while undertaking your parliamentary duties in the constituencies...

(Loud consultations)

Order! Order, Hon. Members. It has been only one month and you have already forgotten your Standing Orders. When the Speaker is on his feet, you go dead silent. When I finish, you can consult as much as you want provided you do not disturb the House.

Hon. Members, I wish to welcome you back to the House for the Third and final Part of the Fifth Session of the 13th Parliament. It is my hope that while undertaking your parliamentary duties in the constituencies, you rested and spent quality time with your families, for those who have families.

I am also optimistic that you are rejuvenated and prepared to engage in the demanding legislative agenda that lies ahead. As we commence this Part of the Fifth Session, the House is expected to consider priority business, including matters currently under consideration by Committees. In view of the limited period remaining before the conclusion of the Session, it is imperative for the House and its Committees to prioritise pending legislative and oversight business to ensure its expeditious conclusion.

Notably, Hon. Members, during this Part, the House is expected to commence consideration of the Budget Policy Statement (BPS) and related fiscal framework for the Financial Year 2026/2027. Given the anticipated electoral calendar, the House will be required to undertake this process with efficiency and diligence, with a view to concluding consideration of all budget-related matters by the end of March 2027, as indeed noted by the Liaison Committee during its August Recess Retreat.

With respect to electoral reforms, I have referred proposals received from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to the Departmental Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs for consideration. The Committee is expected to review the proposals and recommend to the House any appropriate amendments for inclusion in the Elections (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill (Senate Bill No. 29 of 2024) that forms part of the priority business for this Part of the Session.

As the House resumes, I urge Members to build on the industry and commitment demonstrated during the Second Part, which enabled the House to transact substantial business. Prior to the recess, that commitment led to the passage of the following key Bills:

1. The Kenya National Council for Population and Development Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 72 of 2023).
2. The Public Finance Management (Amendment) (No. 4) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 45 of 2024).
3. The Trust Administration Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 29 of 2026).
4. The Air Passenger Service Charge (Amendment) Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 56 of 2026).

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, I presented the four Bills to His Excellency the President on 8th September 2026 for assent. The Bills were assented to and are now Acts of Parliament.

I thank you, Hon. Members, and welcome back to the House.

RECOGNITION OF DELEGATION FROM THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Hon. Members, the second short communication is a recognition of a delegation from the Parliament of Uganda, our good neighbour from the West. I wish to introduce to you a delegation from the Sessional Committee on ICT and National Guidance of the Parliament of Uganda, seated in the Speaker's Row. They are:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Hon. Basajja Issa | - | Deputy Committee
Chairperson and Leader
of Delegation |
| 2. Hon. Paula Turyahikayo | - | Member |
| 3. Hon. Brahan Siraji Ezama | - | Member |
| 4. Hon. Emmanuel Wepukhulu Biara | - | Member |
| 5. Hon. Peter Ojiit | - | Member |

Hon. Members, the delegation, accompanied by two members of staff, is undertaking a study visit on Artificial Intelligence Governance in Kenya, and is being hosted by the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation.

On my behalf and that of the whole House, I welcome them to Parliament and wish them fruitful engagements during their stay in our beautiful country.

I thank you.

Next Order.

PAPERS

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Commissioner Patrick Makau.

Hon. Patrick Makau (Mavoko, WDM): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Paper on the Table:

Report of the Parliamentary Service Commission on the recruitment of a non-Member of the Parliamentary Service Commission under Article 127(2) (d) of the Constitution.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Deputy Majority Party Whip.

Hon. Naomi Waqo (Marsabit County, UDA): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay the following Papers on the Table:

1. Legal Notice No. 148 of 2026 relating to the Public Finance Management (Integrated County Revenue Management System) Regulations 2026 and the Explanatory Memorandum from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.
2. Legal Notice No. 154 of 2026 relating to the Community Groups Registration Regulations 2026, Explanatory Memorandum, Report on Public Participation undertaken during the development of the Regulations, and Regulatory Impact Statement from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.
3. Legal Notice No.160 of 2026 relating to the Science, Technology and Innovation (Research Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2026, Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Statement from the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary.
4. Legal Notice No. 172 of 2026 relating to the Prevention of Terrorism (Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Suppression of Terrorism) (Amendment) Regulations 2026, Explanatory Memorandum, and Report on Public Participation undertaken during the development of the Regulations from the Ministry of Interior and National Administration.
5. Convention on establishment of Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their families from the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary.
6. Conventions from the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA) on the following—
 - (a) Nuclear Safety;
 - (b) Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident;
 - (c) Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency; and,
 - (d) Joint Convention on Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.
7. The 2026 Budget Review and Outlook Paper from the National Treasury.
8. Report on the performance of the Special Groups (Women, Youth and Persons with Disability) for the period from January-June 2026 from the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA).
9. The Annual National Government Budget Implementation Review Report for the Financial Year 2025/26 covering the period from 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026 from the Office of the Controller of Budget.

10. The Annual County Government Budget Implementation Review Report for the Financial Year 2025/26 covering the period from 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026 from the Office of the Controller of Budget.
11. Annual Report on Implementation of Privatization Program by the Privatization Authority from the National Treasury for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Next is Hon. Farah Maalim. He is not in the House. Clerk-at-the-Table, stay that to tomorrow.

Hon. Members, before we go to the next Order, allow me to recognise and acknowledge, in the Speaker's Gallery, the presence of students from Nyanyaa Secondary School from Kitui Rural Constituency, Kitui County; Njiiri School from Kigumo Constituency, Murang'a County; Kitengela International School from Kajiado East Constituency, Kajiado County. In the Public Gallery we have students of Kiisu School from Mwingi Central Constituency, Kitui County; Kiamba School from Kinangop Constituency, Nyandarua County; Cherish Watoto Kenya from Dagoretti South Constituency, Nairobi County; Mount Kenya Youth Assembly from Thika Town, Kiambu County; and Olemugur School from Narok North Constituency, Narok County.

On my behalf and on behalf of the House, I welcome the students, their teachers and those accompanying them to the House of Parliament.

Hon. KJ, I have already acknowledged your visitors from Uganda. You asked me to give you a minute.

Proceed.

Hon. John Kiarie (Dagoretti South, UDA): Hon. Speaker, I want to thank you and take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to the visiting delegation of Members of Parliament from the Communication Committee of the Parliament of Uganda, with whom we had a session this morning and we were able to transact business on communication and advancement in the sector in our region. The conversation spoke to how these countries will have to overcome traditional physical borders so that we are able to navigate this new world of connectivity, where we are not disjointed or separated by physical boundaries, but move towards a united East African region without the traditional boundaries using technology.

I also take this opportunity to welcome this amazing school from Dagoretti South Constituency to this House of Parliament. I would like them to know that this is the House where we transact business for the welfare of society and the just government of the people. I know there are those among them who are looking forward to serving their country in many spheres, including medicine and other advanced careers. I want to invite them to know that there is also business in serving the people as we do in this House. They can become whatever they want to be, as the mantra in Dagoretti South says.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Next Order.

NOTICE OF MOTION

APPOINTMENT OF HON. FATUMA IBRAHIM ALI TO THE PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Patrick Makau, Commissioner.

Hon. Patrick Makau (Mavoko, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

THAT, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Parliamentary Service Commission on its Report on the recruitment of a Parliamentary Service Commissioner who is not a Member of Parliament, laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 29th September 2026, and pursuant to the provisions of Article 127(2)(d) of the Constitution, this House appoints Hon. Fatuma Ibrahim Ali as a member of the Parliamentary Service Commission.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Next Order.

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

MEMBERS' GENERAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker: There is a General Statement by the Member for Kirinyaga County, Hon. Njeri.

GROWING BURDEN OF ENDOMETRIOSIS AMONG WOMEN AND GIRLS IN KENYA

Hon. Njeri Maina (Kirinyaga County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43 to make a general statement on the growing burden of endometriosis among women and girls in the country.

Hon. Speaker, endometriosis is a chronic condition in which tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus, often causing severe pelvic and menstrual pain, excessive bleeding, fatigue and in some cases, infertility. Globally, it is estimated that endometriosis affects approximately one in every 10 women and girls of reproductive age. Despite its prevalence and debilitating effects, it remains poorly understood, frequently misdiagnosed and often dismissed as ordinary menstrual pain. Many Kenyan women consequently suffer silently for years, moving from one health facility to another before receiving an accurate diagnosis.

As a result, many women endure debilitating pain that causes them to miss educational and employment opportunities, lose income and suffer significant financial burdens in seeking appropriate medical care. The absence of timely diagnosis and affordable treatment continues to expose affected persons and their families to immense suffering, stigma and financial hardship. Endometriosis is therefore not merely a private medical concern. It is a public health, social and economic issue that affects the dignity, equality and well-being of women and girls.

Many women, particularly those outside major urban centres, still face limited access to specialized diagnosis and treatment for endometriosis while the high associated costs push affected families into financial hardship. There is an urgent need to integrate endometriosis care into the Universal Health Coverage agenda, provide appropriate coverage under the Social Health Authority and decentralises diagnostic and specialised treatment services to county and regional referral facilities across the country. These should be supported by strengthened healthcare worker training, comprehensive menstrual health education, national research on the prevalence and socio-economic impact of the condition, and clear guidelines on diagnosis, referral, treatment and long-term management.

Our menstrual health agenda should go beyond access to sanitary products. It should include deliberate initiatives to empower girls and women to recognise that severe or incapacitating menstrual pain is not normal, but a condition that ought to be voiced so that they can get timely medical attention.

As a country, we owe a particular tribute to women like Natalie Githinji, who recently shared her journey; and the late Mary Jambiko Koikai, popularly known as Jambiko Koikai, an endometriosis champion whose courageous public struggle with the condition brought the disease into the national consciousness. She transformed her personal suffering into advocacy that gave countless Kenyan women the courage to speak up about their own pain. The greatest homage we can pay to her and to every woman living with endometriosis is to translate awareness into meaningful policy and accessible healthcare. In this regard, I call upon the Government to strengthen public awareness, promote early diagnosis, and ensure that treatment for endometriosis is accessible and affordable.

I thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Omboko Milemba.

Hon. Omboko Milemba (Emuhaya, ANC): Hon. Speaker, I would like to comment on this Statement.

Hon. Speaker: This is a general Statement.

Hon. Omboko Milemba (Emuhaya, ANC): Hon. Speaker, I am so happy about what Hon. Njeri has done. This is an area that is affecting so many...

(Technical hitch)

Hon. Speaker: Give Hon. Omboko the microphone. It is out of the ordinary that I am giving you a minute.

Hon. Omboko Milemba (Emuhaya, ANC): I thank Hon. Njeri because she has raised an issue that is affecting many young ladies in the country, more so teachers. This particular issue reminds me that the medical insurance schemes are not willing to cover endometriosis yet its treatment is very expensive. Maybe Hon. Njeri should have brought out that very clearly. I urge her to proceed and even bring a Motion so that we can create awareness on endometriosis.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Robert Pukose.

(Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona spoke off the record)

Hold on Hon. Pukose. Yes, Hon. Millie. This is a Personal Statement. It is normally not subject to debate, but I will give you a minute if you want to say something to this matter.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona (Suba North, ODM): Hon. Speaker, I am sorry, I did not realize that Hon. Njeri was bringing a Personal Statement.

Hon. Speaker: It is a Personal Statement. I do not know why she decided to make it a Personal Statement.

Hon. Millie Odhiambo-Mabona (Suba North, ODM): If it is a Personal Statement, then I probably should not comment but perhaps we need to consider fast-tracking the Family Reproductive Healthcare Bill that I brought to the House. Normally, when people hear the word reproductive, they think it is about abortion but women suffer very severe types of reproductive health issues, some of which are lifelong. As a country, we do not pay as much attention to such health issues. I am glad that currently, we have very many women in this House. It would be wise if we actually paid attention to reproductive health.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Robert Pukose.

MISLEADING MEDIA REPORTS ON REGISTRATION
OF FOREIGNERS AS VOTERS IN KENYA

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Hon. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(e), I wish to make a Statement regarding my adverse mention in a misleading report aired and published by the Standard Group relating to alleged registration of foreigners as voters in Kenya.

On Sunday, 27th September 2026, KTN News, a subsidiary of the Standard Group, aired a story alleging that there was a scheme regarding registration of foreigners purported to be Ugandan nationals as voters in Kenya. The same damaging content was subsequently published in *The Standard* Newspaper on Monday, 28th September 2026. Among the claims made in the story is the reference to a motor vehicle allegedly belonging to my aide. I wish to state categorically that the vehicle depicted in the report is not my aide's. As a matter of fact, the vehicle shown in the story is maroon yet my aide owns a silver-coloured vehicle. This raises serious concerns on the authenticity of the claims made and the materials used by the Standard Group to support the allegations. It also appears that the image of the maroon vehicle shown in the report could be AI-generated with the intention of maligning my image and that of my constituency staff. The report linking me to alleged illegal registration of voters is malicious and untrue.

As a Member of Parliament, my roles are clearly spelled out in the Constitution and the statutes. I have no role whatsoever in the registration of voters and I have never participated in any scheme to register foreigners as Kenyan voters. For the record, I represent Endebess Constituency, which is at the Kenya-Uganda border. The people I represent interact freely across the border since they share common ancestry and shared livelihoods. They socialize, conduct business, engage in farming and undertake other economic activities across the borders. This is the reality of life in our community where Kenyans and Ugandans have coexisted peacefully for many years. This is the case with all other border communities.

Voter registration is a regulated process undertaken by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). As a Member of Parliament, I cannot dictate how the process is conducted. Neither can I determine who is registered as a voter. I am concerned that this matter has been turned into a political issue. I will not allow my name or the good relations between communities on both sides of the border to be used to advance political narratives that have no basis. Elections are too important to be subjected to unverified allegations. The integrity of our electoral process must be protected by all of us, including political leaders and the media.

It is instructive that the institutions cited in the report, including the IEBC and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), have come out to dispute key allegations contained in the story. I therefore call upon KTN News, *The Standard* newspaper and the wider media fraternity to uphold accuracy, balanced and professional journalism. Claims touching on elections, public institutions and individual reputations must be verified before they are published or broadcast. Those adversely mentioned must also be given an opportunity to respond to allegations before the stories are aired or published.

The people of Kenya deserve facts and accurate reporting, not narratives shaped by political interests. The responsible entities should uphold professional standards at all times in the public interest. I urge the regulator, that is, the Media Council of Kenya, to look into the wanton tendency for misreporting exhibited by the Standard Group with a view to restoring responsible journalism and instituting appropriate sanctions where necessary on the media house.

I thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: This is a Personal Statement and it normally does not elicit any joyriders.

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Allow them, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Deputy Speaker, I will give you one minute.

Hon. Gladys Boss (Uasin Gishu County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. What Hon. (Dr) Pukose has raised is very serious because it questions the integrity of our electoral system. If we begin to pass messages across the country that our electoral system is porous, it means that when the election results will be announced, the public will not believe them. That can cause violence, chaos and civil unrest. So, we should not take this lightly.

It is not just this story by the media houses, but also a former Cabinet Secretary has alluded to rigging elections, which is not even true because I was involved. I was the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary at the time and I did the scrutiny on behalf of the Supreme Court. He was nowhere near the counting of the votes at that time yet he has the audacity to go to a media house and speak about it. Again, the other day, a former CEO of IEBC made allegations that elections were rigged. Those are intentional statements intended at making sure that we have an unbelievable electoral result so that there can be violence in this country. Therefore, it is not something that we should take lightly as Parliament.

I know for sure that our electoral system is one of the most secure systems in the world. No other system has 10 fingerprints, the iris of your eye and the shape of your cheekbones. Even our insurance here in Bunge only takes two index fingers. The Kenyan electoral system takes all 10 fingers. Our ballot paper has nine security features. It is more secure than our banknotes. That is the message we must be telling Kenyans—that it is not possible to rig elections with our current electoral system. The moment you vote, your name is removed from the register and, therefore, you cannot vote twice.

The Kenya Integrated Election Management System (KIEMS) kits or the electronic devices they have are geo-mapped and therefore cannot be used at another polling station. Even other countries—like Australia and the United Kingdom, where I have observed elections—do not have a more secure system. That is the message we must be sending to Kenyans. When you take someone's fingerprints, it is impossible to register that person in a foreign country. We must refuse this in the strongest terms possible.

Hon. Speaker, let us allow Members to ventilate on this issue, because it is very serious. Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Point made. Do not solicit for anyone to speak. This is a Personal Statement. I would not want to open debate.

Proceed, Hon. Junet.

Hon. Junet Mohamed (Suna East, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. You are right, this is a Personal Statement. It is just that when Hon. Pukose raised it, it also became personal to everyone. We are now seeking your indulgence so that we can speak to it too. A journalist once told me that opinions are free, but facts are sacrosanct—sacred. What is happening in this country today, specifically what *The Standard* newspaper and Kenya Television Network (KTN) are doing, is a recipe for chaos. It is very shameful, under this country's new Constitution, for a media house to behave and operate in that manner. We all acknowledge that there is freedom of the press and freedom of expression, but there is no freedom of propagating lies or spreading propaganda. There is only freedom to relay and report facts.

What has shocked me is that when I was in this House, we passed a law to create an institution called the Media Council of Kenya (MCK), which is supposed to regulate this country's media. That body is funded by the Exchequer. Every financial year, we allocate money here to fund that organisation. Yet, the organization is sitting back when it can clearly see that media houses are driving this country towards chaos and anarchy. If this House does

not take action, we will be held responsible for watching while the media took this country towards anarchy.

I believe in the freedom of the media and expression. I also believe in the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution. However, I cannot sit as a leader and accept propaganda, innuendos and malice to be spread, because what they have tried to do to Hon. Pukose is what they have tried to do to everyone. They have bastardized institutions, including Parliament and undermined the Office of the Speaker. For the last two years, they have done everything they could in this country, simply because the owner of the media house, Senator Gideon Moi, is not in government. That is why *The Standard* and KTN are doing this. It is shameful for *The Standard* to be used to fight proxy wars.

If you are in agreement with someone and things do not happen as you agreed, do not use a national media house to fight back. Go and sit down with that person and review your agreements. Lastly, we must have responsible media in this country. We must support media freedom, but we cannot allow the media to be used to create anarchy. We are heading towards an election. We are ten months away from the election, while a national media house is reporting that foreigners are being registered. Tomorrow, they will say this or that has happened, without any facts. They are lying. What will happen? Kenyans will take the law into their own hands and create chaos in this country. In Rwanda and other countries which have gone through genocide, the media played a major role.

Is that what *The Standard* newspaper and KTN want to do in this country? Is Gideon Moi the new Felicien Kabuga of this country? I rest my case. Unless action is taken, we are going to have a problem in this country.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Hilary. One minute.

Hon. Hilary Kosgei (Kipkelion West, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I join my colleagues in condemning the actions of our media houses. For how long will KTN and *The Standard* newspaper be allowed to engage in yellow journalism whereas every part of the country is aware that they publish lies every day? The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) genocide, said that the media was the biggest weapon used in the Rwandan genocide. We are seeing the media slowly taking that route in Kenya. The President was in the United States of America the other day prosecuting serious national matters. Meanwhile, media houses here were busy showing us soap operas from non-African countries. When the Linda Mwananchi group loiters around town, they are given full airtime to incite the public. The Media Council of Kenya is sleeping on the job. It is time we woke up, smelled the coffee, and acted before it is too late.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kaluma.

Hon. Peter Kaluma (Homa Bay Town, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I know that there are limitations on our ability to debate this Personal Statement. However, may I request you to invoke your powers under Standing Order 1 and direct the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Information, Communication and Technology to come to this House? The direction in which the Standard Group PLC, which owns KTN and *Standard Media*, is heading is the same direction that Hon. Junet and other members have spoken about.

The media was at the centre of the Rwanda Genocide. Just the other day, KTN News told us how people had been killed in Homa Bay. In fact, people were reportedly being picked up in the bushes. I have confirmed through my investigation that the media houses have their own journalists covering their faces and purporting to be witnesses. If you go to Homa Bay, you will find that nobody is dead except one person who was hit by a speeding vehicle when Hon. Babu Owino and Sen. Sifuna were there with their convoys. Nobody was killed.

You also hear the media say that Hon. Kaluma, together with Governor Wanga, were at the Governor's Park in the centre of Homa Bay Town, distributing 200 pangas to goons. If

we do not control the media, particularly the Standard Media Group, there will be a problem. I do not think the matter should end with the Media Council of Kenya. I have personally been awarded damages against the Standard Media Group. It can barely survive. To date, it has not paid me over Ksh15 million. They are still negotiating with me, yet they continue to defame other people. We should do something more drastic.

Let the Cabinet Secretary in charge of broadcasting come here so that we address the issue of how to limit the freedom that the Standard Media Group PLC is enjoying. Like all other fundamental freedoms and rights under the Constitution, media freedom under Article 34 can be limited. I think we should even ban the *Standard* completely. We do not need such a media house in the country.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Murugara.

Hon. George Murugara (Tharaka, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Speaker. Amongst all the remedies we have proposed, Hon. Pukose should instruct his lawyer. I am not soliciting in any way. Let him instruct one of the best lawyers of his choice in the country, so that we can go to court. The only way to stop such journalism is through an award of what are known as exemplary damages - punitive damages. If the *Standard* cannot pay Hon. Kaluma or Hon. Pukose. At the end of the day, the media house will be wound up.

We cannot have irresponsible journalism. I take them back to the days of the late Hon. Biwott, when they would write anything about him. After lamenting for so long, he eventually went to court. They had to stop it because they could not afford the quantum of damages that was coming from the courts. Amongst all the other remedies, Hon. Pukose should move to court, get exemplary damages and pile it up with Hon. Kaluma. At the end of the day, these people will be deterred from doing what they are doing.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Next is another Personal Statement by Hon. Jane Kagiri.

THE LOCAL CONTENT BILL

Hon. Jane Kagiri (Laikipia County, UDA): Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I rise to make a general statement regarding the Local Content Bill...

Hon. Speaker: I called you earlier but you were not in the House. Render an apology first for coming late.

Hon. Jane Kagiri (Laikipia County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I apologize for coming in late. Kindly allow me to proceed with the Statement.

Hon. Speaker: Proceed.

Hon. Jane Kagiri (Laikipia County, UDA): Hon. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43, I rise to make a general Statement regarding the Local Content Bill (National Assembly Bill No. 45 of 2025), which I introduced in this House last year. I introduced the Bill to create a framework to regulate local content in Kenya; protect and promote local businesses; provide employment opportunities for our youth, and promote the sourcing of locally produced goods and services, among other objectives. In so doing, I was responding to grave issues that I had observed where unfair business practices were slowly edging out our local small businesses and making them uncompetitive.

Due to lack of a legal framework to protect our local industries, multinationals doing business in Kenya procure their goods, services, supplies and workforce from outside the country. You will recall that last month, small-scale business owners and traders held peaceable protests in the Nairobi Central Business District (CBD) protesting the increase of Import Duty on customs valuation of consolidated cargo.

Subsequently, His Excellency the President held a meeting with the representatives of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), who raised concerns on the unfair business

practices. I am glad to note that the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has since reduced the Import Duty on valuation of consolidated cargo. The meeting further emphasized the need for acceleration of the enactment of the Local Content Bill, 2025 so as to put in place measures to promote local businesses. I also note the recent debate relating to our brothers and sisters from Burundi and the propositions on the need for proper documentation of persons doing business or working in Kenya.

It is against this background that I request that the enactment of the Local Content Bill, 2025 be urgently finalized. I note that the Second Reading of the Bill was concluded in April this year, and the Bill is awaiting Committee stage proceedings for it to be concluded. In the meantime, I also invite my colleagues to process any amendments that they may have on the Bill with a view to further improving it at that stage.

The time is ripe for a robust local content law that shall protect our local businesses and promote their growth for the economic development of our country. This is the time, and this is the House responsible for that process. I look forward to being counted as having resolved the issues concerning our people with respect to doing business in the country, and creation of employment opportunities for our youth.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Jane. Hon. Members, in the Speaker's Gallery, I acknowledge Hon. Phelix Jalang'o's guests. Is this Hon. Jalang'o, the Member for Lang'ata? You are called Phelix?

Hon. Member: Yes.

(Laughter)

Hon. Speaker: He is the Member for Lang'ata Constituency in Nairobi. In the Public Gallery, I also acknowledge the presence of Kawelu Primary School from Mwingi Central Constituency, Kitui County. We welcome them to the House of Parliament. Thank you.

Member for Kiminini, you have an exceptional request. I give it to you.

Hon. Bisau Kakai (Kiminini. DAP-K): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. This is in line with the Statement of Hon. Pukose. Recently, there were a lot of clips being played in the media while I was beside him. The point we have been trying to put across is that every Kenyan, no matter where they are, has a right to vote. The media is supposed to propel on the statements we have always raised – that, whether you are on the Ugandan side, Tanzanian side as a Kuria, or a Sabaot on the Kitale swamp side, you have the right to vote.

The media is supposed to try and enhance the ability and the need for every Kenyan to be given that opportunity through the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). When we try to propel and amplify this idea as leaders, we expect the media to try and enhance and push IEBC to ensure that every Kenyan globally exercises his right to vote. This includes having an arrangement for the diaspora to also vote. We do not expect the media to play negative publicity and try to cause disharmony.

I therefore exceptionally join Hon. Pukose to condemn this propaganda. I expect that our media houses will reengineer themselves and be part and parcel of ensuring that there is harmony within the Republic of Kenya. Especially, because it is less than 11 months before the election, we expect them to be on the front-line in ensuring that there is harmony.

Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Next is a Request for Statement by Hon. Mumina Bonaya.

STATEMENT REQUESTS

DETERIORATING STATE OF
SECURITY IN ISIOLO COUNTY

Hon. Mumina Bonaya (Isiolo County, JP): Hon. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2) (c), I rise to request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security regarding the deteriorating state of security in Isiolo County.

For many years, incidents of banditry and livestock theft in Isiolo County were largely confined to isolated incidents in remote grazing areas and along known banditry corridors. However, the security situation in the county has deteriorated considerably, with armed attacks, killings, abductions and livestock raids increasingly occurring closer to settlements and urban centres, including Burat, Ngaremara, Gotu and Isiolo Town.

On 16th September 2026, bandits attacked a group comprising of security officers and civilians in the Gotu area of Isiolo County, resulting in the deaths of five persons, including one Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) officer, two National Police Reservists (NPR) and two civilians. The attack further resulted in the loss of police firearms. This is not an isolated incident. In recent months, residents of Isiolo County experienced repeated killings, livestock raids and abductions, with some persons reportedly remaining unaccounted for. Armed bandits from neighbouring areas continue to raid communities, steal livestock and terrorize residents.

There are also serious concerns among residents that security and disarmament operations undertaken in Isiolo and neighbouring areas have left communities increasingly vulnerable to heavily armed bandits operating from neighbouring areas. At the same time, the limited number of National Police Reservists (NPR) deployed in the county is inadequately equipped and cannot effectively confront heavily armed and increasingly brazen bandits. Further, questions arise regarding the effectiveness of existing security installations along known banditry corridors.

In particular, residents have raised concerns regarding the effectiveness of the General Service Unit (GSU) officers stationed at Lososia, considering that armed bandits reportedly continue to use the Lososia corridor as an entry and exit route when carrying out attacks and livestock raids within Isiolo County. This situation is concerning, especially as the Constitution guarantees every person the right to life under Article 26, including the right to freedom and security; the protection from violence under Article 29, and the protection of property under Article 40.

It is against this background that I request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security on the following:

1. A comprehensive security audit of Isiolo County by the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, detailing the incidents of banditry, killings, abductions, disappearances, livestock theft and other security incidents in the county during the last 12 months, and the status of investigations into the incidences as well as measures taken to recover any firearms, ammunition and livestock stolen during or in connection with the attacks.
2. Provide a detailed report on the attack that occurred in Gotu on 16th September 2026, including the status of investigations into the killing of the five persons, and efforts to identify and apprehend the perpetrators.
3. A report on the operational effectiveness of the General Service Unit (GSU) security unit stations at Lososia, particularly in preventing movement of armed bandits through the Lososia corridor and state-wide perpetrators of

Gotu and other attackers have continued to use the area as an entry and exit route despite the presence of security personnel.

4. Outline the immediate and long-term measures being taken to restore security in Isiolo County including plans to increase the number of security personnel and other resources available to security agencies in the county, establish and operationalise adequately staffed and equipped police stations, deploy sufficient multi-agency security teams and Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) officers as well as increasing the number of National Police Reservists (NPR) in Isiolo County, particularly in the areas identified as hotspots for banditry and livestock theft.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Abdi, Member for Ijara Constituency. Sorry. Hold on, Hon. Abdi. Hon. Tongoyo, when can you respond to Hon. Mumina? In two weeks?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Maybe next week.

Hon. Speaker: Next week?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): The incident that the Hon. Member is talking about is what has probably resulted even in the issue we have in Samburu County.

Hon. Speaker: Yes.

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): I think we will have the Cabinet Secretary appearing before the Committee on Wednesday. I prefer that she also appears so that we prosecute the issue.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Mumina, can you appear before the Committee on Wednesday?

Hon. Mumina Bonaya (Isiolo County, JP): Yes, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Wednesday next week.

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Excellent.

Hon. Mumina Bonaya (Isiolo County, JP): Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Abdi?

CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNICATION MASTS IN IJARA

Hon. Abdi Ali Abdi (Ijara, NAP-K): Hon. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c) I rise to request a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation regarding construction of communication masts in various undeserved areas within Ijara constituency.

Hon. Speaker, residents of Ruga, Andaro, Elkambere, Egi, Bisiqir, Sarira, Kurisa, Gababa-Hara, Marre, Daar, Warsame, Gololdere, and Ghardo locations in Ijara Constituency continue to experience inadequate and unreliable mobile network coverage. The lack of reliable communication infrastructure has greatly affected access to essential communication services, digital services, mobile financial services, emergency response, education and other opportunities facilitated through internet connectivity. Families residing in these areas remain unable to maintain consistent contact with their relatives, a deficiency of a particular gravity in a region where security concerns render reliable emergency communication indispensable.

Compounding these challenges, Government e-services, online banking platforms, mobile monitor platforms, including M-Pesa, and digital identification systems remain largely inaccessible to substantial segments of the population, thereby impeding economic activity and undermining financial inclusion for the residents. The inadequate network coverage compromises the capacity of residents to contact emergency services, security agencies and medical facilities during crisis, thereby placing lives and property at heightened security risk.

The education sector bears additional burden as students in these locations face considerable disadvantages in accessing digital education platforms, learning resources and examination related services, all of which increasingly depend upon reliable connectivity. Ultimately, this connectivity deficit constrains access to market information, business communication, and employment opportunities that are progressively facilitated through digital platforms, thereby perpetuating the economic marginalisation of communities in the affected areas within Ijara Constituency.

It is against this background that I request for a statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information, and Innovation on the following:

1. Status report on the situation, analysis, needs assessment, or survey and the related findings, if any, undertaken by the Ministry of Information, Communication and the Digital Economy to establish the status of mobile network coverage in Ruge village, Andaro, Elkambere, Ege, Bisikur, Sarira, Kurusa, Gababa-Hara, Marre, Daaru, Warsame, Goleldere, and Ghardo locations in Ijara constituency.
2. Plans in place by the Ministry to construct and operationalise communication masts in the affected areas to boost telecommunication and internet connectivity.
3. Timelines for the construction of communication masts in Ruge, Andaro, Elkambere, Egi, Bisikur, Sarira, Kurusa, Gababa-Hara, Marre, Daaru, Warsame, Goleldere, and Ghardo locations in Ijara Constituency.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Chairperson, the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation. I thought I saw Hon. KJ here.

Yes, Hon. Timothy, are you a member of that Committee?

Hon. Timothy Kipchumba (Marakwet West, Independent): Hon. Speaker, with your permission, can I ride on the Statement?

Hon. Speaker: Go ahead.

Hon. Timothy Kipchumba (Marakwet West, Independent): Hon. Speaker, I wish to thank the Member for Ijara Constituency for raising a very pertinent issue on communication masts in this country. What we normally refer to as boosters.

We have a problem, not only in Ijara but also in other constituencies in this country. For example, 40 per cent of the population in Marakwet West cannot communicate because of booster related challenges. I call upon the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation to take up this matter and ensure that they summon the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and Digital Economy so that this matter can be discussed. If our people cannot communicate with each other because there is no equipment, or we do not have boosters in certain areas of this country, that affects response to emergencies and other issues. Therefore, I support the request for Statement by my colleague. I call upon the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation to look into this matter and ensure that our country has 100 per cent internet coverage and telecommunication so that our people can communicate from one end of our country to the other.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Pauline Lenguris.

Hon. Pauline Lenguris (Samburu County, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Before that, Hon. Pauline, the Chairman of Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation is not here. Where is the leadership of the Majority Party? Clerks-at-the-Table, direct the Chairman of the Committee to bring a response.

Hon. Pauline Lenguris (Samburu County, UDA): Hon. Speaker...

Hon. Speaker: Hold on, Hon. Pauline. There is a Member at the back who wants to contribute. There is a lot of light behind you. Who is that Hon. Member?

Hon. Alfah Miruka (Bomachoge Chache, UDA): Hon. Alfah.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Alfa Miruka. Are you a Member of that Committee?

Hon. Alfah Miruka (Bomachoge Chache, UDA): Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Give him the microphone.

Hon. Alfah Miruka (Bomachoge Chache, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Chair. As the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, let me commit....

Hon. Speaker: There is no Chair here. There is the Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Alfah Miruka (Bomachoge Chache, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I am sorry. As the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, let me ask the two Members to give us two weeks to response.

Hon. Speaker: Okay, bring the response in two weeks' time.

Hon. Alfah Miruka (Bomachoge Chache, UDA): Thank you.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Pauline, go ahead.

INDISCRIMINATE SHOOTINGS IN SAMBURU EAST CONSTITUENCY

Hon. Pauline Lenguris (Samburu County, UDA): Hon. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 44(2)(c), I rise to request a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security regarding the indiscriminate shooting of residents and livestock in Waso Ward, Samburu East constituency.

On 19th September 2026, individuals believed to be security officers reportedly killed 15 goats belonging to the Lekinwe family and two cattle at Losesia area. On 21st September 2026, approximately 400 goats belonging to the Lekatula family and 100 calves belonging to the Lesurmaat, Laigwanani, and Lolpuranai families were reportedly killed at Nolng'erdeed. On the same day, area residents, Leapem and Lesidiya, were reportedly shot and wounded and a motorcycle belonging to one of them was taken and is still missing to date. On Wednesday, 23rd September 2026, 198 cattle and 14 donkeys belonging to Kirateri Lekomiga were reportedly killed at Lekilash.

Hon. Speaker, these incidents have resulted in the reported loss of at least 713 livestock, comprising 415 goats and 298 cattle, as well as 30 donkeys. This is a devastating blow to pastoralist families whose livelihoods depend on livestock. While the Government has a responsibility to combat banditry and protect our communities, any security operations undertaken must be lawful, proportionate, respectful of the rights and property of innocent citizens and targeted to criminals. The indiscriminate manner in which the operation in Waso Ward was conducted raises concerns.

It is against this backdrop that I request for a Statement from the Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Administration and Internal Security on the following:

1. A report on the purpose and execution of the ongoing security operation in Waso Ward.
2. The circumstances surrounding the reported shooting of residents and the killing of approximately 713 livestock during the security operation.
3. The measures being undertaken by the Government to protect people during such operations, provide relief and compensation to families whose livestock were killed and property stolen during the attack.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Gabriel Tongoyo, when can you respond to that?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Hon. Speaker, the Statement by the Member for Samburu County is... There is actually a correlation between what Hon. Bonaya had asked and the question by the Member for Samburu County. Today, we did write to the CS to appear on Wednesday, approved by the Clerk. Hon. Speaker, I would request for your indulgence to have the Member to appear.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Tongoyo, what she is saying is different from what Hon. Mumina said.

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): It is more or less the same.

Hon. Speaker: She is saying that in the security operations, the agencies targeted livestock and shot and killed hundreds of livestock. If that is true, then it is wrong.

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Hon. Speaker, what I am saying is I know the story a little bit. It is as a follow up of what happened in Isiolo and Meru. The multi-agency team following on the killing of the security officers and the other persons is what resulted to the killing of the livestock. So, it is a follow up of what happened in Isiolo and Meru.

Hon. Speaker: If you are looking for a bandit, what justification is there in livestock?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): That is why we summoned the Cabinet Secretary. He is appearing on Wednesday. I think we can better have this one addressed also before the Committee.

Hon. Speaker: Before you tell us when to bring the response, are those Members from Turkana?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Samburu.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Lekumontare, do you want to joyride on this?

Hon. Jackson Lekumontare (Samburu East, KANU): Yes.

Hon. Speaker: Go ahead.

Hon. Jackson Lekumontare (Samburu East, KANU): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, for giving me this time to comment on Hon. Pauline's Request for Statement. What transpired in Samburu is that there was massacre of livestock when the security officers were trying to recover firearms. It is unbelievable that the officers who are supposed to take care and give security to the property are targeting livestock. Hundreds of livestock were killed deliberately. If you visit that site, there are a lot of carcasses right now lying in Samburu East.

It is wrong and I support the statement by Hon. Pauline that the government officers deliberately killed livestock. If they are following bandits, there is no reason for them to target livestock. The livelihood of the Samburu people is lost now, and that is wrong. We demand that they compensate what Samburu East people have lost.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Letipila.

Hon. Letipila Eli (Samburu North, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to support the statement by Hon. Pauline, the woman representative for Samburu County. The incidences which happened in Samburu East were deliberate. Cattle were killed in their hundreds for three consecutive days recklessly against the Constitution. Article 40 guarantees that everybody has the right to own property and the State cannot arbitrarily take property from people. Those cattle were the lifeline of the affected communities. Those are innocent people.

The Government, in my opinion, should have conducted intelligence-led operations, not firing indiscriminately into properties of people, harming civilians and children. Hundreds of families are now paupers in that part of the country. As Samburu leaders, we demand restitution from the Government. We demand a comprehensive statement from the Cabinet Secretary in charge of security. Hon. Speaker, this is not the first incident which has happened amongst our people. In previous administrations, livestock were killed in Laikipia. This is now the third incident.

We have never seen the Government burning properties or taking properties from any other community. Why is it that it is only the Samburu whose properties the Government feels it has the audacity or the right to come and destroy without ever giving an answer to it? We demand answers and we demand justice to those families. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Thank you, Eli. Hon. Tongoyo, when can you bring a response to this? Hold on Tongoyo. Yes, Hon. Sunkuli.

Hon. Julius Sunkuli (Kilgoris, KANU): Hon. Speaker, the operation that killed a lot of livestock actually raises an ethical issue because the Government ought to know that livestock, generally, in the Maasai community, is sacrosanct. It forms the main part of the economy of those people. An operation that goes out should be looking for the threat. There is no way in which livestock was a threat to a very, very well-armed group of askaris. This is something that should be condemned because the worst that they could have done was to round up the animals and give them to the other communities. At least we would have a way of bringing them back. However, to go and destroy property is like going into a coffee farm and finding robbers there but you start cutting down the coffee trees. This is a very serious issue and we have looked at it from far. It seems to be the way operations are conducted among the Maa people. It happened in Suswa under the leadership of Matiang'i and now it has happened again.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Ngogoyo.

Hon. Onesmus Ngogoyo (Kajiado North, UDA): Thank you for this opportunity, Hon. Speaker. I just want to join in and ask the Hon. Chairperson, while he is responding to this Request for Statement.... It raises serious concern that the Government should protect life and property, and then the Cabinet Secretary goes ahead to say that 500 or 700 cattle were very small in number. In your response, can you ask the Cabinet Secretary why he would respond in such a manner? I want to say that, as I asked for this Statement, I was aware that my mother, Nashipai, brought me up with milk from her cows.

For the Maasai woman, milk from the cows is everything. If you bring down a cow, you have brought down her life; you have brought down the community. The thinking that you can destroy livestock is so terrible that you have brought down the whole community. In your response, can the Cabinet Secretary say why he thinks that 500 cattle are very few?

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Korere.

Hon. Sarah Korere (Laikipia North, JP): Hon. Speaker, I also want to condemn the killing of the animals, but in the same breath, we have to be candid. As we mourn and feel pain for our killed cows, a lot of women and children are mourning and crying for their husbands who have been killed in cold blood. I come from Laikipia, and I feel so sorry for our brothers from Samburu. As a Laikipian, I say the leadership, the pastoralist leaders, must be candid and let us address this thing wholesome.

In Laikipia, we have lost thousands and thousands of cows which have been driven away from us by bandits. The destination is Mgogodo Forest in Samburu. A lot of people in Laikipia, Isiolo, and Meru have become paupers, completely poor, because of other people. I want to say this: as we pursue justice for our cows, let us pursue justice for the victims of banditry and cattle harassment.

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Mumina.

Hon. Mumina Bonaya (Isiolo County, JP): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I was painfully listening to contributions from my colleagues from the neighbouring counties that have continued to raid Isiolo County every now and then, killing poor women, poor men, and poor sons in our county. While we are talking of livestock being killed, who will speak for the many people who have lost their lives in the process of facing the bandits?

The Government, as we have said, has got the responsibility to protect the lives and properties of Kenyans. Isiolo people are not lesser citizens of this country. Isiolo people equally

deserve to be protected by the same Government that they are now blaming for killing their livestock. Pastoralists cannot avoid sharing resources on a larger scale, especially in the wake of climate change.

Hon. Speaker: Are you deriding the statement or contradicting the statement?

Hon. Mumina Bonaya (Isiolo County, JP): Let the noise not be about the killings of livestock. Let the noise begin with the killings of humans. We have so many orphans left behind. We have so many widows left behind. Let us also speak for these people, not just the livestock.

Hon. Junet Mohamed (Suna East, ODM): On a point of order, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Point made. Yes, Hon. Junet, what is your point of order?

Hon. Junet Mohamed (Suna East, ODM): Hon. Speaker, I seek your indulgence. Hon. Lenguris stood in her place with your approval to make a statement requesting answers for cattle that were 'shot' by security officers. Banditry is altogether a different issue that needs to be handled on its own. The question that Hon. Lenguris is raising is: why should cattle in a homestead be shot by security people? That is what Hon. Lenguris is asking. Banditry is a menace because the people on one side who will complain today about cattle being stolen and driven from this side are the same group that again will steal from the other side. This is a serious menace that requires greater attention and a stronger response because it involves human lives that need protection.

People are saying I am a fisherman, but my ancestors were keeping cattle. They were pastoralists. My father was a pastoralist, and so was my grandmother even though I am now rearing fish. Let us not confuse the two issues. I do not want us to lose the issue that the Samburu Members of Parliament have raised, that cows in the homestead were killed. Can they be compensated for that?

Hon. Speaker: Yes, Hon. Tongoyo, when can you bring that response?

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Hon. Speaker, just allow me one minute. I think I had earlier indicated, with your indulgence, that we did already write to the Chief Administrative Secretary to appear before the Committee on Departmental Administration and Internal Security on Wednesday, to respond to two issues.

One, the Statement being sought by Hon. Mumina Bonaya, which talks about the issue of banditry in Isiolo, Meru, and the rest. We had also called the Cabinet Secretary to respond to the unfortunate killing and shooting of cattle in Samburu. They could have been interrelated, but this is a true statement. I did indicate that the Cabinet Secretary will be appearing on Wednesday. We will be able to transact this before the Committee.

Allow me also to add one thing. Resulting from the urgency and the sad situation of what happened in Samburu, a very unfortunate shooting of the livestock, we had a meeting this morning with my colleagues from Samburu County. We did agree a little bit on a roadmap to also have this issue addressed and prosecuted in a manner that is, you know, we can have a long-lasting solution to it. I do not want to pre-empt it. The Cabinet Secretary, of course, will be able to address it. I also want to call for calm. There is a lot of tension in Samburu. We understand their pain, but they should be able to know that the Government is very responsible and concerned with what happened, as much as we are concerned with the issue of what happened in Isiolo and Meru. I want to say that on Wednesday, with your indulgence, we have both teams appear and transact this issue before the Committee with the Minister in charge.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Pauline and your brigade from Samburu, create time and appear before the Committee and interrogate the Cabinet Secretary who will be appearing. In the event you are not satisfied with what the Cabinet Secretary will say, you bring it back to me, then we will deal with it in plenary. The same applies to Hon. Mumina.

Yes, Hon. Tongoyo.

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): I could, Hon. Speaker, also feel your frustration over the killing of the cows. One of the issues we did put in the question was actually the possibility of compensation as being sought by the Members. We are not leaving anything unaddressed.

Hon. Speaker: Excellent. Now, are the following Members in the Chamber, so that we can have their Request for Statements responded to by Hon. Tongoyo? Hon. Robert Pukose, Hon. Aden Dawood, Hon. George Murugara... Hon. Tongoyo, Hon. Milemba said he has gone to a meeting; we defer his. You can respond to the Request for Statement by Hon. Robert Pukose, then Hon. George Murugara. Has it been responded to already? Oh, Hon. Tongoyo has too many statements! He does not know the ones he has responded to. Only respond to the one by the Member for Endebess.

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Hon. Speaker, I have got a response here with me. I indicated to you, Hon. Speaker, that we had a long backlog of about 20, and 17 are ready.

Hon. Speaker: You will respond to only one Request for a Statement now.

RESPONSES TO STATEMENT REQUESTS

DISAPPEARANCE OF MR HOSEA KEMEI

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Yes. This is the Statement regarding the disappearance of an Administration Police (AP) officer and the status of the investigation into the murder of a resident of Endebess Constituency being sought by Hon. Robert Pukose.

An AP officer, Hosea Kemei Kipketer, was enlisted into the National Police Service (NPS) in 2015. He served in various stations across the country. He was later deployed to Naivasha Sub-county, AP Service, where he performed police duties. On 29th April 2026, the officer was deployed as a day sentry at the Deputy County Commissioner's office, but failed to report on duty as expected.

Efforts to reach the officer via his telephone number were not fruitful, since his mobile phone was switched off. This prompted his immediate commander to proceed to his residence within the AP camp resident line, but he was not found. Subsequently, the officer was booked for failing to report on duty vide Occurrence Book (OB) No. 042904 of 2026 at 7.43 p.m.

On 2nd May 2026, the officer did not resurface, and absent without official leave signal was sent to the AP headquarters, in accordance with the regulations of the service standing orders. A reminder signal regarding the missing officer was issued on 13th May 2026. On 21st May 2026, a deserted signal was issued after the officer was absent from duty for more than 10 days. The officer's disappearance was escalated to his next of kin. On 25th May 2026, his father, Andrew Nabukwesi, made a missing report at Naivasha Police Station. Pursuant to the report, the Officer Commanding Station (OCS) in Naivasha circulated a missing person signal to all police stations countrywide.

The Sub-County Criminal Investigation Officer, Naivasha, commenced an investigation vide inquiry file No. 44 of 2026. Witnesses were summoned, interviewed and their statements were recorded. The investigation established that on 15th March 2026, the officer fell ill and was taken to Naivasha Sub-County Hospital where he was admitted for treatment. His family was subsequently informed of his condition, including concerns regarding his alcohol consumption and the need for his wife to be present.

After his condition improved, the officer was granted sick leave and then he travelled to Endebess, Trans Nzoia County, where he continued with medication. Mr Hosea Kemei travelled from Endebess to Naivasha on 24th April 2026. He arrived safely and reported to his workplace. He was subsequently deployed to the Deputy County Commissioner's office as a

day sentry between 26th April and 22nd May 2026. However, on 29th April, the officer failed to report for duty as expected. Efforts to trace the officer have been unsuccessful, but investigations are still ongoing.

On the status of the search, the local police officers undertook the following measures in their efforts to trace Mr Kemei's whereabouts. The murder of the missing person was reported at the Naivasha Police Station. The OCS, Naivasha Police Station, circulated the missing person signal. The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) commenced an investigation to establish his whereabouts. Despite the search, tracing and inquiries conducted, his whereabouts remain unknown. Efforts to locate him are ongoing.

MURDER OF MR BOAZ KIPROP

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Hon. Speaker, there is a third question on the investigation into the murder of the late Boaz Kiprop Keter. Mr Gerald Malinga, a resident of Mutembei sub-location, reported at Salama Police Station post vide OB No. 0318 of 2026 that the body of a middle-aged man had been discovered inside Kimothon Forest in Mt. Elgon National Park within Endebess Sub-County. Police officers visited the scene and found the lifeless body of the man lying beside the road in a forest with a gunshot wound on his chest.

Inquiries established the identity of the deceased as Mr Boaz Kiprop. The scene was processed and the body was moved to Kijana Wamalwa County Referral Hospital mortuary for preservation and autopsy. The DCI, Endebess, immediately commenced an investigation vide CR No. 81525 of 2026. The persons of interest were interviewed and a statement was recorded. The investigation established that the victim was with two colleagues, as they returned from the forest where they were tilling land in preparation for planting.

They encountered two Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers. A confrontation ensued, during which Mr Kibet was fatally injured. Investigation was completed and the inquiry file was forwarded to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Kitale. It recommended that George Gitau Njoroge, a KWS ranger attached to Mt. Elgon National Park, be charged with murder, contrary to Section 203 as read with Section 204 of the Penal Code. Upon perusal of the inquiry file, ODPP, Kitale concurred with the recommendation and returned the file to DCI, Endebess. However, before the directive could be implemented, the file was recalled by the regional ODPP in Nakuru for review, following a request by the suspect for reconsideration of the decision to charge. On 22nd June 2026, the file was forwarded to the regional ODPP in Nakuru. The investigating officer is still awaiting the recommendation from the ODPP in Nakuru to enable appropriate action.

I submit. Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Robert Pukose.

Hon. (Dr) Robert Pukose (Endebess, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker. I discussed these issues with the Chair. I appreciate him for following them up and bringing a report. However, on the disappearance of Mr Hosea Kemei Kipketer Kaptila, the information that has been provided is inadequate. He disappeared on 29th April 2026 and the report was filed. The police officers have told us the events that happened in March, which are not relevant to the investigation. They need to tell us how far they have gone to trace where Hosea is. They should have logs for the phone number which were last traced in Naivasha. This report is inadequate. I request the police officers to do further investigations. They are dealing with a father of children, family man, and son of Nabukwesi family. It is important for the police officers to do a thorough investigation.

Hon. Speaker, the second issue is about the killing of Mr Boaz Kibet by the KWS officer. Subsequent investigations have established that the KWS ranger, George Gitau

Njoroge, is responsible. How can he go to the regional ODPP to ask for a review and the file is recalled? I think there is mischief which is being played by the regional ODPP in Nakuru. They should allow the prosecution to proceed because they recalled the file on 22nd June, and we are almost in October, and nothing has happened.

There is evidence that the DCI, Endebess, had done enough investigations. The ODPP, Kitale, had found that there was enough evidence to charge Njoroge Gitau for murder, and then the file was recalled, on the request from George Njoroge Gitau. I am dissatisfied with that response. I ask the ODPP in Nairobi to take action against the ODPP in Nakuru for recalling the file and sitting on it from 22nd June up to today, 28th September. An action needs to be taken.

Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Tongoyo, since the file was recalled, it is over three months now.

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Hon. Speaker, this is an issue of the ODPP.

Hon. Speaker: Since the file that was recalled is now...

Hon. Gabriel Tongoyo (Narok West, UDA): Actually, it is an issue that should be handled by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). It is more of a judicial process than a police matter.

Hon. Speaker: Yes. Just tell them that the delay is inordinate and that justice delayed is justice denied. Next Order.

BILL

First Reading

THE TEACHERS SERVICE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL (National Assembly Bill No. 64 of 2026)

*(The Bill was read a First Time and
referred to the relevant Committee)*

Hon. Speaker: Thank you. Next Order.

MOTIONS

APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION OF CONVENTION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MEDIATION

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kirima, I am told that you are the one moving this Motion. Is that correct?

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti, UDA): That is correct, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: Go ahead.

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti, UDA): Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, taking into consideration the findings of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations and pursuant to Section 8 of the Treaty Making and Ratification...

Hon. Speaker: What Motion are you moving?

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti, UDA): I am moving the Motion on the Ratification...

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kirima, once you say, “I beg to move the following Motion”, you read the Motion word for word as it appears on the Order Paper, then you start your discourse.

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion on the Departmental Committee on Defence...

Hon. Speaker: You are wrong. Say: “I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, this House adopts the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence...” then read the terms up to the end as they appear on the Order Paper.

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion on the Departmental Committee on...

Hon. Speaker: Do we have the same Order Paper?

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti, UDA): Hon. Speaker, the Order Paper shows that the Motion is on the Ratification of the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organisation for Mediation.

Hon. Speaker: So, start by saying, “I beg to move the following Motion”, then you read the Motion as it is indicated: That, this House adopts the Report of the Departmental Committee... up to the end.

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion on the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organisation for Mediation. I beg to move that taking into consideration...

Hon. Speaker: Hon. Kirima, you are a lawyer, my brother.

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti, UDA): I am getting it, but I have a number of papers before me, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker: There is only one Motion under Order No. 9, so just read it.

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti, UDA): That is exactly what I am trying to read, Hon. Speaker.

Hon. Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, this House adopts the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on its consideration of the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organisation for Mediation, laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 27th August 2026 and, pursuant to the provisions of Section 8(4) of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act (Cap 4D), approves the ratification of the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organisation for Mediation.

Hon. Speaker: Excellent! That is how it is done. You can now go ahead.

Hon. Moses Kirima (Central Imenti, UDA): Hon. Speaker, the Convention establishes a permanent intergovernmental organisation dedicated to the special settlement of international disputes through mediation, of which Kenya signed the Convention on 30th May 2025. The Organisation is headquartered in the Hong Kong Special Administration Region of the People’s Republic of China. The Organisation may provide mediation services with the consent of the parties in disputes between States, disputes between a State and a national of another State, and international commercial disputes between private parties. The Convention provides an additional consensual dispute resolution mechanism and it does not displace Kenya’s existing judicial arbitral or regional mechanisms.

The Committee undertook public participation in accordance with Article 118(1)(b) of the Constitution and Section 8(3) of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act. Stakeholders generally supported the ratification in principle while listing safeguards relating to the sovereignty, enforceability of settlement, governance, mediator competence, financial obligations and Kenyans' representation in the Organisation.

The Committee particularly highlighted the following important issues:

1. Protection of Kenya's sovereign interests. Article 29 allows a contracting State to identify categories of disputes it will not submit to the mediation. The Committee, therefore, recommends an inter-agency assessment before deposits of the instruments of ratification, and where necessary, a narrowly defined declaration covering sensitive matters such as territorial sovereignty, maritime delimitation, and national security.
2. Enforcement of mediated settlements. The Protocol contemplated under Article 41, which expected to address enforcement of international commercial mediation settlements, is yet to be negotiated. Kenya should participate actively in its negotiations and pursue a clear enforcement framework.
3. Kenya's participation and professional opportunities. Kenya may designate up to five nationals to the panel of State-to-State mediators, and up to 20 to the general panel. The Committee recommends a transparent merit-based inclusive nominations process and that Kenya formally expresses interest in hosting the African Region Office of the International Organisation for Mediation. The State Department for Foreign Affairs indicated an expected annual membership subscription of about US\$60,000, which the Ministry should, therefore, provide for Kenya's obligations through the national budgetary process and ensure that membership delivers identifiable diplomatic professional and capacity building benefits.

[The Speaker (Hon. Moses Wetang'ula) left the Chair]

*[The Deputy Speaker
(Hon. Gladys Boss) in the Chair]*

The Committee found the Convention consistent with Article 159(2) of the Constitution on the alternative dispute resolutions and with Kenya's policy of peaceful settlement of disputes. It further considered that the identified risks can be addressed through the safeguards provided in the Convention and through Kenya's active participation in the Organisation. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that this honourable House approves the ratification of the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organisation for Mediation, subject to the accompanying implementation measures contained in this Report.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the Motion and invite Hon. Kwenya, a Member of the Committee, to second the Motion.

Hon. Kwenya Thuku (Kinangop, JP): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I rise to second the Motion recommending the approval of the ratification of the Convention on the Establishment of International Organisation for Mediation. The central value of this Convention is that it gives States and other eligible parties an additional voluntary avenue for resolving international disputes without compelling them to abandon existing judicial arbitral or diplomatic mechanisms. Consent remains fundamental to the mediation process.

For Kenya, participation also offers an opportunity to influence an emerging international mediation institution. It will also enable Kenya to nominate qualified Kenyan

professionals to its panels of mediators, benefit from capacity-building initiatives and pursue Nairobi's candidacy to host the organisation's African regional office.

The Committee was nevertheless mindful that ratification must protect Kenya's national interest. Article 29 of the Constitution is particularly important. It allows Kenya to exclude specified sensitive disputes from mediation. The recommended inter-agency assessment before the deposit of the instruments of ratification is therefore an important safeguard on matters sovereignty, maritime delimitation and national security.

A second issue is enforceability. The protocol contemplated under Article 41 has not yet been negotiated. Kenya should use its membership to shape that framework. This will ensure that mediated commercial settlements are supported by clear, predictable and effective enforcement arrangements.

The Committee also considered accountability and value for money. With an expected annual subscription of approximately US\$60,000, Kenya should ensure that its participation translates into meaningful representation, professional opportunities for Kenyans and measurable capacity-building benefits. These safeguards make the Committee's recommendation more than a simple approval of membership. They provide a framework to protect Kenya's sovereign interests and enable it to benefit from the organisation.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I second.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members: Put the question.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Is it the mood of the House that I put the question?

Hon. Members: Yes.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Millie, do you want to say something?

Hon. Millie Odhimbo-Mabona (Suba North, ODM): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker. I wish to support the report of the committee of which I am a member. The Convention on the Establishment of the International Organisation for Mediation seeks to establish the world's first permanent intergovernmental organisation. The organisation is dedicated to the peaceful resolution of international disputes through mediation.

On peaceful settlement, the UN Charter seeks a win-win situation for countries rather than zero-sum outcomes. This is what the organisation seeks to do. The Convention provides for professional mediation services in three specific categories, as the Mover referred to:

1. State-to-State disputes.
2. Investor-State disputes.
3. International commercial disputes between private parties.

This will improve international order and cooperation on the rule of law. It will also prioritise the capacity-building needs of developing nations. One of the issues that arose in the Committee was how Parliament deals with parts of a treaty with which it does not agree. Currently, under the Constitution, every treaty ratified in Kenya becomes part of the Kenyan law. Parliament therefore has a role to play in relation to ratification. However, the only option we have is to seek reservations where we do not agree.

The Committee together with the relevant Ministry has agreed to explore whether parliamentary involvement would be necessary before the process is presented for formal parliamentary debate. By the time Kenya signs a treaty and it comes for ratification, it may have gone through many processes and sometimes, for years. When Parliament seeks reservations, it can make the country look bad. That is one of the things that we are seeking to do as a committee. We want to ensure a smooth treaty ratifying process. Otherwise, mediation is a good approach. As I have indicated before, it gives a win-win situation, not a zero-sum outcome.

With those few remarks, I thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Sunkuli.

Hon. Julius Sunkuli (Kilgoris, KANU): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I also wish to support the Report on the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organisation for Mediation. The Convention that we are ratifying today was negotiated and concluded in Hong Kong. It came into force in 2025. Kenya is among the 47 signatory countries to this Agreement.

It basically covers three particular scenarios:

1. State-to-State dispute resolution.
2. Investor-State disputes between States and national companies of countries such as China that normally do business with their national companies.
3. Commercial disputes between private parties.

An important aspect of this Agreement is that even after we have ratified it, Kenya is not compelled to submit every dispute to mediation. Consent is still required. The country will therefore determine on a case-by-case basis whether a dispute is suitable for mediation. It does not affect our sovereignty but rather protects it.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I support.

(Question put and agreed to)

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Next Order.

APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF
AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Chairperson of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure. Hon. Dawood, will you take the Motion?

Hon. Rahim Dawood (North Imenti, Independent): Yes. Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

I will present this Report on behalf of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure and my Chair. I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, this House adopts the Report of the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure on its consideration of the amendment of Article 10(4) of the Constitution of the African Civil Aviation Commission, laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, 27th August 2026, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 8(4) of the Treaty Making and Ratification Act (Cap. 4D), approves the ratification of the Amendment to Article 10(4) of the Constitution of the African Civil Aviation Commission.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, pursuant to the National Assembly Standing Order 216 (1) (h) and (i), the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure is responsible among others, for examining treaties, agreements and conventions, and making reports and recommendations to the House as often as possible.

The African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), was established in 1969 as the specialised agency of the African Union responsible for civil aviation matters in Africa. AFCAC coordinates the development of safe, secure, efficient, sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation across the continent and serves as the executive agency for the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM).

Kenya is a State Party to the AFCAC Constitution and actively participates in the Commission's activities. AFCAC has its members spread across five regions namely the Southern Region with 10 States, the Eastern Region with 14 States, the Central Region with nine States, the Western Region with 15 States and the Northern Region with six States. Each region is represented by a Vice-President. Kenya is the current Vice-President for the Eastern Region of AFCAC, representing 14 States. These are Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Amendment to Article 10.4 was adopted during the 24th Extraordinary Session of the AFCAC Plenary held in Dakar, Senegal from 1st to 4th July 2014. It was resolved that Article 10.4 of the AFCAC 2009 Constitution be amended to read that the quorum for the Plenary should be a simple majority, 50 per cent plus one of Member States. Article 10.4 presently provides that the quorum of the Plenary shall be two-thirds of member States. Presently, nine member States have signed and ratified the Amendment and a minimum of 15 States are required to ratify it for the Amendment to come into force.

The Amendment to Article 10.4 of the Constitution of AFCAC was approved by the Cabinet on 11th November 2025. The proposed Amendment seeks to revise the quorum requirement for meetings of the AFCAC Plenary from a two-thirds majority of member States to a simple majority, 50 per cent plus one. This is a practical and timely reform that will strengthen the effectiveness of the Commission's governance. The Amendment will facilitate the convening of plenary meetings, reduce delays in decision-making and enable AFCAC to discharge its mandate more efficiently as the executing agency of SAATM.

An effective AFCAC is essential to advancing the harmonisation of aviation policies, regulations and technical standards across the continent. Improved institutional efficiency will support the timely adoption and implementation of measures that enhance aviation safety, security, consumer protection, environmental sustainability and the liberalisation of air transport services in Africa.

Ratification of the amendment to Article 10.4 of the Constitution of AFCAC will reinforce Kenya's influence in continental aviation policy formulation, support the continued growth of Nairobi as a regional aviation hub, enhance opportunities for Kenyan airlines through the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market, promote aviation safety, security and regulatory cooperation, strengthen Kenya's participation in regional aviation initiatives and facilitate increased trade, tourism and investment through improved air connectivity.

Lastly, having considered the submissions and analysed documents presented pursuant to the Treaty Making and Ratification Act No. 45 of 2012 and Standing Order 216, the Departmental Committee on Transport and Infrastructure recommends that the House adopts the Report on its consideration of the ratification of the Amendment to Article 10.4 of the Constitution of the African Civil Aviation Commission, AFCAC and approves the ratification of the Amendment to Article 10.4 of the Constitution of the African Civil Aviation Commission.

I beg to move and ask the House to adopt this Report. I now request Hon. Catherine Wambilianga, the Iron Lady of Bungoma, to second.

Hon. Catherine Wambilianga (Bungoma County, FORD-K): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker.

I rise to second this Amendment from the Committee on Transport and Infrastructure.

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

(Question proposed)

Hon. Members: Put the Question.

(Question put and agreed to)

Next Order.

ADOPTION OF REPORT ON INSPECTION
VISIT TO KENYA EMBASSY IN MOROCCO

Hon. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Kwenya.

Hon. Kwenya Thuku (Kinangop, JP): I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, this House adopts the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on the inspection visit of the Kenyan Embassy in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, undertaken from 22nd to 25th March 2026, laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 28th July 2026.

The inspection visit was undertaken on behalf of the Committee by Hon. Yusuf Hassan, who was the Leader of Delegation and Hon. Luyai Caleb Amisi, Member of the Committee. The visit was conducted pursuant to the Committee's oversight mandate, under Standing Order 216 and formed part of the Committee's approved work plan for the 2025/2026 Financial Year.

*[The Deputy Speaker
(Hon. Gladys Boss) left the Chair]*

*[The Temporary Speaker
(Hon. Farah Maalim) in the Chair]*

The objective was to assess the operational effectiveness of the mission, its delivery of consular services, promotion of economic diplomacy, management of public resources and the challenges affecting its performance. The delegation also engaged directly with the Ambassador and mission staff in order to appreciate the strategic role of the Embassy in advancing Kenya's foreign policy and economic interests in North Africa and the wider Arab or Maghreb region.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the Committee established that the opening of the Embassy in Rabat was a deliberate strategic decision aimed at strengthening Kenya's engagement with North Africa and the Arab-Maghreb Region.

Although the Cabinet approved the Mission in 2018, it only became operational in January 2024 due to financial constraints. Before then, Kenya's relations with Morocco were managed from Cairo, a non-resident arrangement that limited effective diplomatic engagement. Today, Morocco is an increasingly influential player within the African Union and the wider continent. It is a strategic gateway to North Africa, Europe and the Atlantic market making it an important partner to Kenya. The Key achievements of the Embassy are:

1. Progress the Embassy has made within a relatively short period.
2. Strengthened diplomatic relations between Kenya and Morocco through increased high-level engagements, signing of several memoranda of understanding, covering trade, education, housing and tourism.
3. Successful organisation of Kenya Economic Promotion Week in 2025 which brought together Kenyan and Moroccan investors.
4. Promotion of Kenya tea and coffee in the Moroccan market.

5. Progress in discussions with Office Cherifien des Phosphates (OCP) on establishing a fertiliser plant in Kenya.
6. Capacity building programmes including specialised counter-terrorism training for Kenya security officers.
7. Approximately, 20 scholarships annually for Kenyan students in medicine, engineering, law and other specialised fields.

These achievements demonstrate that the Mission is already contributing meaningfully to the Kenya diplomatic and economic agenda.

The Committee's overall finding is straightforward. Kenya has established a strategically important Embassy, but the Mission has not yet been adequately resourced to fully discharge its mandate. While the Embassy is delivering results, it continues to operate under serious human resource financial and infrastructural constraints that require urgent Government intervention. Some of the challenges that the Embassy is facing include:

1. Staffing gaps. The mission is operating with only 11 officers against an optimal establishment of 15 leaving 4 critical positions vacant, that is the translator, foreign relations officer, defence attaché and a clerk. The absence of a translator is particularly challenging because French and Arabic are the principal working languages in Morocco. Existing officers are forced to perform multiple roles affecting efficiency and service delivery.
2. Financial constraints. Despite allocation of approximately Ksh143 million in 2025/2026 Financial Year, the Mission at the time of the visit had pending bills amounting to approximately Ksh23 million. The mission also faces high rental costs of approximately Ksh50 million annually, inadequate funding for foreign service allowances, limited medical cover and insufficient staff welfare support. The committee was particularly concerned that the officers have in some instances, been compelled to use personal resources to sustain essential mission operations.
3. Lack of permanent premises. The Embassy currently operates entirely from leased premises and does not own either a chancellery or official residences. This results in substantial recurrent expenditure and exposes the Government to escalating rental costs.
4. Poor air connectivity. There are currently no direct flights between Kenya and Morocco. Travellers must connect through Europe or the Middle East increasing travel time, cost and limiting trade tourism and diplomatic engagement.
5. Economic diplomacy. The committee found enormous economic opportunities that have not yet been fully exploited including fertiliser manufacturing through OCP, expansion of Kenyan tea and coffee exports, increased Moroccan investments into Kenya and a stronger private sector partnership. However, the absence of commercial attaché is limiting the mission's ability to aggressively promote Kenya's trade interests.
6. There is also the issue of diaspora and consular services. The Kenyan community in Morocco consists of approximately 150 registered Kenyans, most of whom are students. The Embassy continues to provide documentation, embassy emergency assistance and support to Kenyans in distress including undocumented migrants attempting to cross into Europe. However, diaspora registration and engagement mechanism requires significant strengthening.
7. Security and staff welfare. While the chancellery is focused or is secured, official residences do not have adequate security coverage.

8. Delays in payment of allowances, inadequate medical cover and limited education support for staff dependents continue to affect staff morale and operational effectiveness.

There are also strategic opportunities for Kenya. Beyond challenges, the Committee identified significant opportunities for Kenya. The opportunities are:

1. Agricultural value addition particularly fertiliser production.
2. Export diversification for tea and coffee manufacturing and industrial partnerships.
3. Maritime and logistics cooperation through the Tanger Med Port.
4. Counter-terrorism cooperation and security training.
5. Higher education and technical scholarships.
6. Stronger collaborations within the African Union and other multi-institutions.

The committee believes Kenya should leverage Morocco's strategic location as a gateway into North Africa and European markets.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, to address the challenges identified, the Committee makes the following key recommendations:

1. Immediate prioritisation of recommendations, that is, fill critical staffing gaps within six months including deployment of a translator, a clerk, a foreign relations officer and defence attaché.
2. Clear the outstanding pending bill of Ksh23 million and adequately fund the mission's operational requirements.
3. Staff welfare and foreign service allowances.
4. Acquire permanent chancellery and official residences for the mission and develop a long-term diplomatic property acquisition strategy for Kenya missions in high-cost countries.
5. Conclude negotiations Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) between Kenya and Morocco within 12 months.
6. Pursue direct or near-direct passenger and cargo flights between Nairobi and Rabat or Casablanca within the next three years.

Economic diplomacy recommendations:

1. Deploy a commercial attaché to Rabat.
2. Fast-track implementation of the proposed fertiliser processing plant with OCP Group. Strengthen promotion of Kenya's tea and coffee exports.
3. Facilitate stronger commercial linkages between Kenya and Moroccan businesses.
4. Diaspora and consular services. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should establish a structured diaspora registration and engagement framework, and provide adequate resources for emergency consular services.

The Committee also recommends a structured framework for sustained high-level bilateral engagement between Kenya and Morocco with greater focus on economic diplomacy, regional cooperation and multilateral engagement.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, this report is not simply about one embassy. It is about ensuring that Kenya's diplomatic missions abroad are properly equipped to advance national interests, attract investments into Kenya, expand export markets for Kenyan products, strengthen regional security cooperation, improve services to Kenyans living abroad, enhance Kenya's influence in North Africa and within continental institutions.

In today's foreign policy environment, our embassies are not merely diplomatic offices. They are centres for trade promotion, investment attraction, citizen protection and strategic

engagement. In closing, the Committee is satisfied that the Kenya Embassy in Rabat has made commendable progress since becoming operational in January 2024. It has already contributed to revitalising Kenya-Morocco relations and advancing Kenya's diplomatic, economic and strategic interests. However, the Mission's ability to fully deliver on its mandate will depend on timely Government action to address the staffing, financial, infrastructural and connectivity challenges highlighted in this Report.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move and urge the House to adopt this Report and call upon the relevant ministries to implement its recommendations within the stipulated timelines. I now request Hon. Yusuf Abdi to second this Motion.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Proceed, Hon. Yusuf Hassan.

Hon. Yusuf Hassan (Kamukunji, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to second the Motion for the adoption of the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on the inspection visit to the Kenya Embassy in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco, undertaken from 22nd to 25th March 2026.

I had the honour of leading the delegation that undertook this inspection mission, together with Hon. Caleb Amisi, a Member of the Committee. The visit enabled us to engage directly with the Embassy and to assess, first-hand, the opportunities and challenges facing Kenya's diplomatic representation in Morocco.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I wish to begin by emphasising the establishment of the resident Embassy in Rabat as an important and strategic decision by the Government of Kenya. The Mission became operational in January 2024, following the earlier arrangement where Kenya's relations with Morocco were managed from Cairo, Egypt. The resident Embassy has provided Kenya with a much stronger platform for engagement with Morocco and the wider North Africa and Arab Maghreb region.

Morocco is increasingly influential within the African Union and has developed significant economic and diplomatic interests across the continent. For Kenya, therefore, Rabat should not be viewed as merely another diplomatic posting. It should be viewed as a strategic platform for advancing our economic, diplomatic and security interests.

The delegation was encouraged by the Embassy's progress in a relatively short period. This included increased high-level diplomatic engagement and the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) in trade, education, housing and tourism. The Mission also successfully hosted Kenya Promotion Week in 2025, promoted tea and coffee in Morocco, and engaged with the Office Chérifien des Phosphates Group (OCP), the company involved in the proposed fertiliser processing plant in Kenya. The Embassy has also facilitated counter-terrorism training for Kenyan security officers and access to approximately 20 scholarships annually for Kenyan students. These achievements show that the Mission can deliver even greater value to Kenya with adequate support.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the most important issue arising from our visit is that we have established the Embassy, but we have not adequately resourced it. The Mission is optimally established for 15 officers, but only 11 are currently in position. Several important positions remain vacant, including a translator, Foreign Relations Officer and a clerk. The absence of a translator is a particular concern in a country where French and Arabic are the principal working languages, and none of the Embassy staff has competence in either language. I also want to point out that, in future, when we consider appointments of diplomatic officers, particularly Ambassadors, it is very important to ensure language and area specialisation. I therefore support the Committee's recommendation that these positions be filled within six months of adopting this Report.

The delegation was equally concerned about the Mission's financial situation. At the time of the visit, the Embassy had approximately Ksh23 million in pending bills, despite having

an allocation of approximately Ksh143 million for the Financial Year 2025/2026. The Mission also incurs approximately Ksh50 million annually in rental costs for the chancery and staff residences. Of particular concern is the fact that officers have in some instances been required to use their personal resources to sustain Mission operations. This is not an acceptable or appropriate way to run a diplomatic mission. We must ensure that our Missions are adequately funded and that officers representing the Republic are not placed in a position where they must finance Government operations out of pocket.

The issue of permanent diplomatic property also requires attention. The Embassy currently operates entirely from leased premises. This means that the Government continues to incur substantial recurrent expenditure without building a permanent national asset. The Committee's recommendation to acquire a permanent chancery and official residences is therefore both prudent and financially strategic. We should view our diplomatic properties as long-term national assets rather than recurring expenditures.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, another major issue requiring Government attention is the lack of direct connectivity between Kenya and Morocco. Currently, travellers must transit through Europe or the Middle East. This increases travel costs and duration and makes it harder for businesses, tourists, investors, and Government officials from the two countries to engage. To increase trade and investment with Morocco, we must also improve the connectivity that supports that relationship.

The delegation saw considerable economic opportunities in Morocco. We should particularly focus on the proposed fertiliser processing plant in partnership with the Moroccan OCP Group. This initiative could boost agricultural productivity, reduce fertiliser costs, and strengthen food security. This initiative also presents opportunities to expand the Kenyan tea and coffee market in Morocco and attract Moroccan investment in Kenya. However, these opportunities require dedicated economic diplomacy. The Committee's recommendation to deploy a Commercial Attaché to the Mission is therefore important and urgent. Our Embassies should not represent Kenya only politically. They must also actively market Kenya as a destination for investment and as a source of competitive products.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, although the Kenyan community in Morocco is relatively small, estimated at approximately 150 registered Kenyans, the Government's responsibility to its citizens remains important. The Mission handles documentation, emergency assistance and cases involving Kenyans in distress. We therefore support establishing a structured framework to register and engage the Kenyans in diaspora. Accurate diaspora data is important because it enables our Missions to plan effectively and respond quickly during emergencies.

We must remember that our diplomats operate in a foreign environment and should be adequately protected and supported. The delegation noted inadequate security coverage at official residences, as well as concerns about allowances, medical cover, and education support for dependants. A diplomat worried about basic welfare and security cannot be expected to do their best in representing their country's interests. The welfare and security of our diplomatic personnel must, therefore, remain a government priority.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the Committee's recommendations should be viewed within the broader context of Kenya's foreign policy. Morocco provides Kenya with opportunities beyond the bilateral relationship, including agriculture and fertiliser production, trade and investment, manufacturing, maritime and logistics, security and counter-terrorism, education and technical training, and African Union and multilateral diplomacy. Therefore, we should develop a sustained and coordinated strategy for our engagement with Morocco. I fully support the recommendations contained in the Report, particularly those relating to:

1. Filling the four critical staff vacancies within six months.
2. Clearing Ksh23 million pending bills.

3. Providing adequate funding for staff, welfare and foreign services allowances.
4. Acquiring permanent diplomatic premises.
5. Concluding the bilateral air services agreements between Kenya and Morocco, and pursuing direct or almost direct flights between Kenya and Morocco.
6. Deploying a commercial attaché to Rabat.
7. Fast-tracking the proposed OCP fertiliser processing plant.
8. Strengthening diaspora registration and consular services.
9. Establishing a sustained framework for Kenya-Morocco bilateral and multilateral engagement.

In conclusion, the inspection visit demonstrated that the Kenyan Embassy in Morocco is already delivering results, despite operating with limited resources. It has helped revitalise Morocco-Kenyan relations and has opened important opportunities in trade, investment, agriculture, education and security cooperation. Our responsibility now is to ensure these opportunities translate into tangible benefits for Kenyans. This Report therefore provides a practical roadmap for strengthening the mission and maximising the strategic value of our relationship with Morocco. I urge the House to adopt the Report and support its recommendations.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Julius Sunkuli.

Hon. Julius Sunkuli (Kilgoris, KANU): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I stand to support the Motion. Morocco is a very important country, especially after 2017 when it rejoined the African Union (AU). It has started establishing very critical relationships with African countries. I visited Morocco privately a few years ago, before the Embassy was established. At that time, a Moroccan resident businessman managed it as Kenya's special representative. For Kenyans to access services in that kind of environment was very difficult because the mother Embassy, which looked after Morocco, was in Egypt.

It was very difficult for us to consult with the special envoy there, the resident Moroccan who was handling Kenyan affairs. Morocco sits in a very important territory. It has well-developed cities where we can do business, starting with Rabat City, which has its headquarters, Casablanca City, and Fez City. These are important cities we need to consider. Morocco's proximity to Europe, Spain, and France makes it an important gateway to Europe.

Morocco has been considering joining the European Union (EU) because of its special relationship with it. Therefore, having our feet in Morocco is very important. However, it has its difficulties. I hope the Kenyan Embassy in Morocco will assess the business environment and negotiate good deals. Repatriating money from Morocco is very difficult. Western Union exists only to receive money from other countries, but it does not allow, at least at the time I was there, to send money from Morocco. Bringing dollars out of Morocco is very difficult.

I hope that the Kenyan Embassy in Morocco will look at the working environment of Kenyans. They go there to do business. When they make money, they want to bring it back home. The Member for Kamukunji has rightly said this because I know the Committee that travelled there emphasised the need for a translator. He has said something that I stand for, but I do not think that is the way to go. We should not send envoys to countries whose language they do not understand. We should prepare them.

If you are sending an envoy to China, have him learn Chinese before he goes, or bring someone who has learnt Chinese through the system. If you are sending an envoy to Morocco,

why not send an Arab-speaking or a French-speaking one? Why do we go there and start looking for translators? We do not have a translator. I support having one for the present purposes. However, as a policy, the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs should stop this habit of sending people abroad to countries whose history and geography they have never studied. We must discourage this.

I know there is a fascination with having permanent offices, but let us also make it clear that this is a very young Embassy. The costs should be graduated. They should not be done at once. The Kenyan Embassy in China has permanent, large offices because we received favours from Mao Zedong. We also received favours in Addis Ababa. We also have a big office in Namibia. We should start where we are. Let us go slowly. The ambassador there should start multitasking. You should send an ambassador who will double as a commercial attaché because the number of Kenyans he is looking after is small.

The recommendations are sound. They need to be implemented gradually. I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Kimani, for the benefit of the House, you have said that the Kenyan Embassy in Morocco needs to have the government's intention. Morocco and Algeria have been giving scholarships to Kenyan students for the last 30 years. They return fluent in French and Arabic. We send students to China for donkey years and many other countries which speak Spanish and other languages. We need to look into the issue of sending people to other countries where they do not speak the local language.

(Laughter)

Hon. Kimani, proceed.

Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo, UDA): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. At the outset, I would like to congratulate this Committee on the many reports it has brought to the House this afternoon. The business in this House this afternoon seems to be only the one for the great Member for Kinangop, Hon. Kwenya.

One thing I have noted is the importance of Morocco, given its geographical location and the many opportunities it offers Kenya. For example, the Committee has noted opportunities for fertiliser manufacturing, export diversification for tea and coffee, manufacturing and industrial partnerships, maritime and logistics cooperation through the Tanger Med Port, counter-terrorism cooperation, security training, and higher education and technical scholarships. These are very strong collaborations. In Kiswahili, we say *Mgala muuwe na haki mpe*.

It is important to note that the Cabinet of the Republic of Kenya approved this mission in 2018. However, it became operational in January 2024, when the Kenya Kwanza administration came into office in 2022. This is the difference between having a plan and making the plan work. If you walk anywhere, either across the world or in the country and ask anybody what plans they have for their lives, everyone has a plan. But the difference between those who are successful and those who have a plan is in the implementation. To me, this is an example of a government that not only had a plan but was deliberate in its implementation. That is why the Kenyan Mission to Morocco, approved by the Cabinet in 2018, became operational during this administration in June 2024.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, yesterday we met with the Kenya Bankers Association in Naivasha. On my way from Naivasha, it was very interesting and fulfilling to see the great work being done on the Rironi-Mau Summit Road. I know that a few years ago, a former leader said that there was only a wheelbarrow on that road. It was fulfilling to see real work underway. The discussion among people in the minority party is now about how quickly the road is being done. It is good to appreciate that. At least they now acknowledge that it is not just a wheelbarrow that is there, but that work is being done.

Tomorrow is another significant day in this country when we will launch the refinery in Lamu, developed in collaboration with Dangote Group. This project will create at least 60,000 jobs for Kenyans. The whole project will cost around Ksh2 trillion. It is important to tell Kenyans that if Kenya had waited to finance this project through our main budget, our annual budget is only about Ksh4 trillion or thereabouts. Therefore, this would be more than half of our Kenyan budget. That would mean we stop funding education, health and roads and only do a refinery. Even then, the refinery would not come into operation immediately because it is a project that would take quite some years to refine crude oil in this country. I want to congratulate this administration.

It is important to note that this refinery was a blueprint for the LAPSSET scheme, drawn by experts in this country in 2012. We have had an excellent report on a refinery that has sat idle, gathering cobwebs in some offices, since 2012. After 14 years, someone said, “Enough of the planning; let us have execution.” This, among many other projects, is what we are saying: Kenya will transform into a first-world country in our generation. With that, I beg to support and thank the Committee for the good job it has done.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Member for Buuri.

Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I stand to support this Report. From the outset, it has captured what we would like to hear as a progressive Parliament and nation. We should not go where we know. The time has come for us to go where we do not know, as long as we need to.

This was established by the visit of this Committee, led by a senior Member of Parliament for Kamukunji. I wonder whether, when my senior went to China, he understood Chinese. I thought he would say what they have done and that the people they have asked are not there to interpret on behalf of the ambassador or high commissioner. It is for other purposes of interaction because we cannot have interpreters interpreting for the ambassador at every function when the ambassador is not there. Ultimately, we need to explore educational opportunities outside the country and areas of economic interest in the country.

I lost my passport in Portugal. I did not discover it until I arrived in Rabat. It took three days to contact the consulate, which had to come all the way to Rabat. I met so many Kenyans. I felt comfortable because so many Kenyans were working there. I discovered they do a lot as employees. Some in very sensitive areas. It is high time that we started strengthening areas where we have not been. This is an area where, as you correctly said, education is key; the more we send our students and young people to countries such as Algeria and Morocco, where they are giving us an advantage, the more we need to invest.

We should not lose sight of the fact that the world is changing. If people in Morocco are going to consume our Kenyan tea, coffee, and beef, there is nothing wrong with establishing and maintaining a working, effective embassy there. I remember the issue of Polisario, but that is no longer the case. Many countries are now rushing to Morocco to establish diplomatic relations. Kenya should not be left behind. We need to move fast and implement this Committee's recommendations, so we become more visible in that region of Africa.

I therefore stand to support. Let us not always look at the negatives, but also the positives.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Mogaka.

Hon. Stephen Mogaka (West Mugirango, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity to support this unprecedented report on our fellow African country. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is about us Africans stopping looking inwards and starting to look at each other, trading with each other and holding each other's hands.

This Committee's recommendation that Kenya set up its embassy in Morocco is the boldest recommendation that has taken too long to come about. Morocco has been looking north to Europe because it lacks arrangements with its sibling countries in Africa. This move

will open up trade with Morocco, which has the advantage of being adjacent to developed Europe. I want to invite us African States to look at each other very seriously, to start cross-selling among each other and always to know that charity begins at home, and home for Africans is Africa.

On that basis, I support and applaud the Committee for taking us into uncharted waters. Only a stagnant mindset continues doing things the same way and expects different results. Africa has lagged for centuries, and it is time that we did things differently by creating new markets and new relationships, loving each other as Africans and growing our respective economies. That way, together as a continent, we will conquer the world.

I beg to support.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Waluke.

Hon. John Koyi (Sirisia, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Let me also contribute on this. The only person championing bringing Africa onto the world map is President William Ruto. If all African countries support this, they will move and compete with the rest of the world. Africa is a very rich continent. The developed countries know that all the minerals are in Africa. That is why it has taken time.

We know we have many minerals in this country, like fuel and copper. I want to thank developed countries, the superpowers, because last time they invited our President to a G8 meeting, and it was a remarkable meeting for us as the African continent. President William Ruto was invited because of his sharpness. With Africa's richness, he is trying to see how Africa can get out of poverty. The African Continent should support President William Ruto.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Kwenya Thuku. Sorry, from the look of things, there seems to be no further interest. Is that the mood of the House? If there is no interest, then I will call upon the Mover to reply.

Hon. Stephen Mule (Matungulu, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, actually this is a Motion. Now that you have given me an opportunity to reply, I will do so. I beg to reply.

(Laughter)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Members, you can reply to a Motion. He is perfectly within the rules of the House.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION

APPROVAL OF REPORT ON INSPECTION VISIT TO KENYA EMBASSY IN MOROCCO

THAT, this House adopts the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on its inspection visit to the Kenyan Embassy in Rabat, Morocco from 22nd to 25th March 2026, laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 28th July 2026.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Members, I understand that the Motion on Order No. 12 cannot be moved. I direct that it be deferred to another date that is convenient to the Mover.

(Motion deferred)

In that case, the Chairperson of the Public Investments Committee on Governance and Education will move Order No. 13.

MOTION

APPROVAL OF 13TH REPORT ON AUDITED NG-CDF ACCOUNTS OF CONSTITUENCIES IN FIVE COUNTIES

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): The Chairperson, Decentralised Funds Accounts Committee, Hon. Mulyungi, proceed.

Hon. Gideon Mulyungi (Mwingi Central, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I beg to move:

THAT, this House adopts the Thirteenth Report of the Decentralised Funds Accounts Committee on its consideration of the audited accounts for the National Government Constituencies Development Fund for Constituencies in Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Kisii and Nyamira Counties for the Financial Years 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, 10th June 2026.

This Report covers 10 Financial Years from 2013/2014 to 2022/2023. The Committee examined a total of 300 Reports of the Auditor General across 32 constituencies drawn from five counties, namely: Kitui Rural, Kitui Central, Kitui West, Kitui South, Kitui East, Mwingi West, Mwingi North and Mwingi Central constituencies in Kitui County; Masinga, Kathiani, Yata, Matungulu, Machakos Town, Mwala, Kangundo and Mavoko constituencies in Machakos County; Kibwezi East, Kibwezi West, Kilome, Makueni and Mbooni constituencies in Makueni County; Bonchari, Bomachoge Chache, Kitutu Chache North, Kitutu Chache South, Bomachoge Borabu, Nyaribari Masaba, Nyaribari Chache and South Mugirango constituencies in Kisii County; and lastly North Mugirango, Borabu and Kitutu Masaba constituencies in Nyamira County.

In examining these accounts, the Committee engaged extensively with both the current and former Fund Account Managers who are the designated Authority to Incur Expenditure (AIE) holders. The Fund has continued to make a significant impact on the lives of people across the 32 constituencies examined through infrastructure and social development projects, including the construction and renovation of schools, security installations and other facilities, as well as the issuance of bursaries to needy students in secondary and tertiary institutions. Despite this impact, the Committee's examination identified a number of cross-cutting matters requiring the attention of this House and the Executive. Allow me to highlight the cross-cutting systemic issues the Committee observed during this scrutiny.

One, on the presentation and accuracy of Financial Statements, the Committee observed that many Fund Account Managers have struggled to adapt to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) reporting frameworks since their introduction in the 2013/2014 Financial Year, resulting in qualified audit opinions. The Committee recommends that the accounting officer ensure compliance with the IPSAS framework at all times and, in consultation with the Sector Accounting Standards Board, conduct continuous capacity building for constituencies' staff on Financial Reporting Standards.

Two, on capacity gaps among Fund Account Managers and Project Management Committees (PMCs), the Committee observed that some Fund Account Managers were ill-prepared and lacked adequate knowledge of financial reporting, procurement, and record-keeping requirements. The Committee recommends that accounting officers conduct

continuous capacity building for Fund Account Managers and Project Management Committees, and strengthen the link between the board, the Office of the Auditor-General, and Fund Account Managers. This will ensure timely responses to audit queries and ensure constituency committees employ qualified accountants.

Three, on delayed disbursement of Funds by the Treasury, the Committee observed that late disbursement of funds from the National Treasury to the board and subsequently to the constituencies delayed project implementation and led to underutilisation of public funds. In several instances, AIEs were issued one month before the closure of the Financial Year. The Committee recommends that the Treasury ensure timely and adequate disbursement of funds to the NG-CDF board for prompt release to constituencies.

Four, on procurement and project management, the Committee observed procurement challenges, missing procurement records, and partial allocations in some instances, which led to stalled or incomplete projects. The Committee recommends strict adherence to the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act and reiterates that ongoing projects take absolute priority over the new ones.

Five, on outstanding land issues, the Committee observed several unresolved land challenges across constituencies, including unprocessed land titles, incomplete transfers, and many succession matters. The Committee recommends that accounting officers guide Fund Account Managers and PMCs on applicable succession and land-title transfer processes, establish a policy on the procedure for buying land, and ensure submission of progress status reports on all pending land matters.

The NG-CDF remains one of the nation's most transformative grassroots development instruments, supporting infrastructure in education and security, as well as broader socio-economic empowerment. However, this mandate can only be fully realised when guided by the constitutional principles of openness, accountability and prudent management of public funds under Article 201. The report further emphasises the need for transparency and accountability in managing the NG-CDF funds.

Following its examination of the financial statements and engagement with the fund account managers, the Committee identified key areas of improvement and made practical recommendations to strengthen compliance with sound financial management principles, address the audit queries and implement the proposed remedies to ensure efficiency and accountability in the use of NG-CDF funds for the betterment of the constituencies in Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Kisii and Nyamira counties.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, you will notice that when you fly across Kenya, the only iconic developments you see in most of the villages are funded by NG-CDF, even more than by the county governments. Therefore, we encourage this Fund to continue and be utilised in a proper manner.

With those few remarks, I beg to move and request Hon. Muthoni Ikiara to second.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Yes, Hon. Muthoni, proceed and second.

Hon. Dorothy Muthoni (Nominated, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I beg to second this Motion that this House adopts the 13th Report of the Decentralised Funds Accounts Committee on its consideration of the audited accounts of the National Government Constituency Development Fund for the constituencies of Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Kisii and Nyamira counties for the Financial Years 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, 10th June 2026.

During the long and meticulous examination of these 300 audited reports, the Committee had very extensive interaction with the fund accounting managers across the 32 constituencies. The Committee thoroughly examined written submissions, audited reports and

physical evidence before identifying the structural bottlenecks that undermine transparency and resource operations in these decentralised units.

As the Chair has highlighted, there are growing issues that hamper the effectiveness and implementation of projects in various constituencies. As has been highlighted, delaying the disbursement of funds from the Exchequer is one of them. This matter leads to expenditure and significant delays in the completion of critical constituency projects. These delays sometimes end up with us having stalled projects.

One of our deepest concerns in these constituencies is the perennial issue of non-compliance with procurement requirements and weak asset management. The Committee encountered incidents of direct procurement without the statutory justification, missing procurement records, outdated fixed asset registers and untagged equipment. These omissions contravene Article 227 of the Constitution and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act. The report, therefore, underscores the need for continuous procurement training for the fund account managers, as stated by the Chair.

Another matter of concern is the failure to submit the necessary documents during the audit review. This is a matter that should be looked at, and we urge the fund account managers to submit all the required documents during the auditing process.

The issue of stalled projects has been mentioned, and some of the ongoing projects stall midway. This necessitates a recommendation from the Committee that we have clear timelines on the number of years that a project should take so that the communities can reap the benefits of this Fund. Therefore, we state that the NG-CDF remains a very critical vehicle for grassroots development and a life-changing fund that builds schools, provides bursaries to our students and improves local security because the NG-CDF funds assist in building police stations and the police posts that we have, thereby elevating the living standards of millions of Kenyans.

For the record, it should be very clear that if you run across our constituencies, you will be able to see what NG-CDF has done in our communities. You have testimonies from our communities on what NG-CDF has done, even in the education sector, building our schools and ensuring that the structures remain structures that can stand the test of time.

For this reason, we want to say prudent management of public resources can only be seen through the NG-CDF kitty. Therefore, this is a committee that has looked deeply into the utilisation of this Fund, and it is satisfied that what the Members of this House do through their oversight role, they are doing it in the best interest of our communities.

With those few remarks, I second. Thank you.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Yes, Kwenya.

Hon. Kwenya Thuku (Kinangop, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on this report moved by the Chairman of the Special Funds Committee.

When NG-CDF is mentioned, it gets on our nerves. Indeed, this is a Fund that is an equaliser, so to speak. I am very happy that there is a conversation that is going around this country whereby every region should be considered.

I am happy that there is an ongoing conversation in this country to consider every region. The inception of NG-CDF and the introduction of the Act, brought by the former Member for Ol Kalou and the Senator for Nyandarua, Muriuki Karue, was a game changer as far as equalisation is concerned. This is because you do not have to be a member of the ruling class for your people to benefit from the national cake. When reports come to this House and there is a mention of misappropriation or noncompliance in the administration of NG-CDF by some of these constituencies, it pains me because this is the only money that touches our citizens where it matters, especially matters to do with education.

Before the inception of NG-CDF, some of our constituencies suffered because money was concentrated in certain areas that were seen to be singing to the tune of the government. I come from a county called Nyandarua where we have suffered for many years because, for decades, districts or constituencies within Nyandarua were not known to support the government of the day. All funding was taken to other places in the central region. For instance, Murang'a had all the Ministers of Education, ranging from Dr. Gikonyo Kiono to the famous Joseph Kamotho.

All education funds were taken to Murang'a while the rest of the money went to Kiambu and Nyeri, where the then Vice President, Mwai Kibaki, came from. Nothing came to Nyandarua because we are not seen to be supporting the government. The coming of NG-CDF is a miracle that we have been waiting for a long time. It is the reason why one of our sons, Muriuki Karue, brought up this fund that was enacted when he was a Member of Parliament.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I believe a time has come when we need to look deeper, not just regarding NG-CDF, but how we budget. We cannot have budgets that are skewed to favour certain areas or because someone is the chairman of a committee that oversees the allocation and appropriation of money. We need to be firmer and scrutinise our budgets to ensure fairness. Whatever goes to North Eastern should be commensurate to the needs of the region. What goes to Molo should also be commensurate to the needs of the Constituency without favouritism or taking funds to areas that have a heavier shareholding. As we continue to administer this fund that is so dear to our hearts...

Hon. Stephen Mogaka (West Mugirango, JP): On a point of order, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): This is a moment when the Speaker would wish to be there and not chairing the session. What is your point of order, Hon. Mogaka?

Hon. Stephen Mogaka (West Mugirango, JP): Hon. Temporary Speaker, is my brother, who I call party leader, in order to bring the very derogatory term 'shareholding' to the Floor of this House? Would it rather not be left to shame the architects and pronouncers of that very shameful approach to governance? Is he in order to bring this shareholding nonsense to the Floor?

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Kwenya, just for the benefit of the Chair, how long has your community been a shareholder in this government?

Hon. Kwenya Thuku (Kinangop, JP): There is nothing like community. There is nothing communal in this matter. People have been benefiting individually. I come from the community that was claiming to have shares in the current government but I can tell you that we have suffered in all the regimes. I think one of the most marginalised counties we have in Kenya is Nyandarua yet we are perceived to be beneficiaries of shareholding successive governments, especially those that have been headed by people who come from the defunct central region. We must now refocus and look at issues from lenses that will be helpful to our people, devoid of where a person comes from or where the support base is perceived to be.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, if you look at what is happening with NG-CDF today, there are some constituencies that do not have anything else to do other than pay school fees because their schools were built a long time ago. We have been treated to a situation where we are not seen to be working because we are not giving free secondary education like some constituencies because they do not have anything else to do with the money. We had to come up with slogans like 'ondoa matope', 'ondoa mbao' or 'ondoa mabati' in order to build decent schools for our children, whereas in other areas, these people are dishing out money and making chapatis for students. It is unfortunate that in one area, the taxes we are paying are going to buy chapatis while in other areas, there are children who are not going to school. It is a conversation that we must restart so that there is fairness in this country.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Kwenya, you are lucky I am chairing this session. If I was there, I would have said a lot. I am not allowed to participate. Proceed, Hon. Mwashako.

Hon. Danson Mwashako (Wundanyi, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I am glad that I have this opportunity to speak about NG-CDF, particularly what the work that has been done by decentralised funds, led by my colleague in Wiper Democratic Movement. This is an important report that really spells out issues that we sometimes devil NG-CDF at the constituency level. As I read the report, I liked that the committee really went deep to make some very good recommendations. One of the recommendations made is that NG-CDF, at the constituency level, should employ qualified accountants. We have previously raised this matter with the Board. They need to review the remuneration packages for NG-CDF staff at the constituency level. This will ensure we can attract real qualified accountants who will manage the books.

The Ksh170 million to Ksh200 million that comes to the constituencies is not small money. The Public Finance Management Act (PFM Act) and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act are very strict on what happens with taxpayer money. I am therefore happy that the committee brought this up. I also like the recommendation that requires fund managers to adhere to the recommendations made by the committee. Many times, when auditors visit constituencies, they raise issues but the fund managers do not correct them. We need to ask our fund managers to do more in order to comply with the regulations and queries raised by the Auditor General.

I am happy my colleague has really addressed the issue that NG-CDF came to balance the country to ensure every corner of this country can participate, appreciate and receive their equitable share of the national cake. We may be talking about how the national cake is now being spread across the board but I think we need to do more. The budget running this country in this Financial Year is Ksh4.8 trillion. I think it is important for us to conduct an audit of the entire budget, not only the development kitty of Ksh700 billion plus that is in the Budget but also the donor funded projects. On top of that, we also need to audit money that is not in the budget but comprises of securitisation funds like the Road Maintenance Levy Fund.

We should also understand what proportion of securitised money of the Road Maintenance Levy Fund goes to which county. We should also look at how much of the more than Ksh700 billion development fund is allocated to counties. Even as we laud, we should ensure there is some semblance of balance. We also need to acknowledge that a county like Taita Taveta may clap for a project worth Ksh1 billion, as they have never seen such an amount of money or project in their county. However, other counties in this country receive Ksh40 billion for a single project.

We should also look at how to achieve balance so that the marginalised counties—the 14 counties identified in the initial marginalisation policy by Micah Cheserem, the former Chairperson of the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA)—how much are they allocated *vis-à-vis* the other counties? If we do not address the issue of equalisation, we might find ourselves clapping that a county that has faced marginalisation since independence has received only one project, while another county, which has been closer to the Government over the years, continues to receive more funding than those marginalised counties.

What I am trying to say is that we must conduct an audit of this Budget for improvements. When we discuss balance, we must ensure that development is achieved in every corner of the country, particularly by addressing the historical injustices, especially upon the 14 marginalised counties. Hon. Temporary Speaker, you come from one such county, so I know you understand what I am talking about.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Actually, it is not since independence but pre-independence.

Hon. Danson Mwashako (Wundanyi, WDM): Yes, even pre-independence. There is a road in my area worth Ksh2.7 billion that has taken so long to complete. Yes, we are happy that it is finally being constructed and the contractor is on site. However, if you were to ask about other constituencies, for instance, Mwatate Constituency currently has no road works progressing. We are happy to see developments, but we must consider those counties that are closer to power, which have projects worth tens of billions. Therefore, while we are happy that progress is being made, but until we bridge the gap between counties, we are not helping this country.

Lastly, Hon. Temporary Speaker, one aspect I love about NG-CDF is public participation through participatory processes regarding projects. We have implemented projects in this country that have failed to follow the principles outlined in our Constitution, which require public participation. Sometimes, there is zero public participation. This lack of public participation then affects project prioritisation.

I wish that this Parliament would address the situation currently at hand. I am happy for initiatives like affordable housing. However, if you were to visit my constituency today and ask the residents whether they prefer affordable housing or water, they would definitely choose water. If you asked people whether they would prefer a market or real financial empowerment for market activities — people receiving actual funds, not what transpired with the Hustler Fund — they would prioritise financial support for them to engage in business.

Even as this Government may be doing everything right, it is important to recognise that the projects currently being implemented are not our main priorities. If we could one day convene in this House to reconsider the affordable housing fund, I might suggest that the Ksh1 billion allocated to my constituency be repurposed. We could seek public opinion and ask, “Do you want housing or do you desire something else?” If the community prioritises something else, we would need to agree on that. Instead of labelling it a housing levy, we could term it a development levy for various counties so that each county can choose to do what they want to do.

As I said, we have been facing a big crisis in Taita Taveta. Our residents have struggled with water access; particularly, Voi has faced severe water shortages. Seventy per cent of the issues we encounter in Taita Taveta are related to water. Once we secure a reliable water supply, we will have safe drinking water, reduce hospital costs, provide water for our livestock, and enhance agricultural productivity. Should that happen, we will have addressed 70 per cent of our issues.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, I want this to go on record that the projects this Government has promised concerning water in Taita Taveta should be prioritised. I wish that the NG-CDF could tackle these issues; however, the amount is small. I hope that this Government can address priority issues in the counties. First, we should handle water; second, we must address healthcare; third, we need to tackle issues of education so that our children can attend school without paying fees. Fourth, and equally critical, we should manage issues around agriculture and livestock so that genuine empowerment can occur in our counties.

I beg to support, and thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Lekumontare, the Member for Samburu East.

Hon. Jackson Lekumontare (Samburu East, KANU): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I am a Member of the Decentralised Fund Committee, and I can say that NG-CDF is one of the most important funds we have ever experienced, even more than the counties. We examined the challenges facing the Fund, and it is high time we address these issues. We noticed that the fund managers were unable to complete some documentation on time during the audits.

The Fund has achieved a great deal in this country and citizens of Kenya recognise and appreciate what this fund has accomplished. However, it may be beneficial for the fund managers to undergo training. This would enable them to manage the funds more effectively. We have realised that even some projects being executed with this Fund lack ownership documents. In some regions of the country, documents such as title deeds are not available.

We must work hard as a House to support the fund managers by ensuring that all necessary documentation is completed by the responsible parties. Our audited reports have revealed some inconsistencies within certain constituencies. Overall, the Fund is performing well, but we need to refine specific areas. I believe this is what we have been striving to achieve.

It goes without saying that NG-CDF has achieved much. Some issues flagged in some projects are minor details, such as labelling. As a committee, we are happy, as we have not encountered constituencies that have misused the Fund. Documentation remains the biggest challenge we have identified. If we can improve procurement and record-keeping, this is the best fund we have in this country. If the counties could operate in a manner similar to NG-CDF, we would witness a great deal of development across the country. In every village, there are visible NG-CDF projects, as opposed to the large amounts of funds that our counties currently hold. Therefore, I support our report. It is one of the good reports. We have audited this Fund, and it is satisfactory; we will see what more can be done.

I believe the NG-CDF should be increased so that we can realise development in areas where, perhaps, no one has ever considered that development could occur. If you look at the rural areas, you realise that there are places where perhaps nobody thought that there would be good schools, but we have them at the grassroots, courtesy of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF). This is good. I support the Report. We will work to ensure that the Fund does more and helps our people.

Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I support the Report.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Member for Kamukunji.

Hon. Yusuf Hassan (Kamukunji, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity. I support the Motion on the NG-CDF Report on the various counties of our country. As has been mentioned here, the NG-CDF project is one of the most impactful. This is particularly so not only in rural and underdeveloped areas, but also in poor urban centres such as my constituency. In fact, I was thinking about Hon. Kwenya's statement, where he stated that Nyandarua is one of the least developed counties in the country. I am rather surprised because I think many people would consider Nyandarua to be a paradise, a heaven on earth. It was the *crème de la crème* of the White Highlands, and many of the colonial settlers in our country found it to be the perfect place to settle and cultivate land. I am not sure whether he knows how lucky he is compared to other parts of our country.

In an urban centre such as my constituency, Kamukunji, there are pockets of extreme poverty, with poverty levels far below the national level in the informal settlements. When I was elected as the Member of Parliament, I found that the roofs in some schools were gone and the floors were in a poor state. When it rained, the schools leaked. The classrooms were in a bad shape. Fortunately, NG-CDF came in handy. We were able to develop those schools and provide our kids with decent learning facilities.

The good thing about the NG-CDF is that projects are selected by the community. Unlike some national projects, which one may not see, NG-CDF projects are visible and have a fairly quick impact. We have done a lot with the Fund, given that these resources are available at the local level and are less bureaucratic in terms of implementation. I believe that the Fund plays a very huge role in the development of our society at the grassroots level despite it being a small percentage. I would like to see that percentage increased so that more resources can be used at the local level and to help poor urban people in a city like Nairobi.

I can tell you that the extreme poverty in some of these neighbourhoods, such as Kamukunji, is such that rural people are better placed because they have land; they live in their own neighbourhoods and with their families. On the contrary, people living in urban centres do not have land of their own. They live in corrugated iron shanty towns with no running water, no proper sewer lines and no continuous electricity supply, although they live in the capital city of the Republic of Kenya, which is only 500 or 600 metres away from the centre of power. I commend the NG-CDF for its positive impact. If we can expand the Fund, we will be able to do more.

I also listened to some Members speak about some of the achievements of the Government, for example, the East African Oil Refinery that is coming up. This is a very good project and I commend it. However, no thorough work was done before it was established. The local population was not involved in any public participation. They were not consulted in the process of introducing this massive project in their midst. Today and yesterday, they have been protesting.

I am pleased that the High Court in Malindi has stopped the implementation of that project until the local population is consulted and compensated for the land that will be taken from them. Let us not do things the way we are doing them. Let us do them properly and move our country forward by engaging our population in development projects. You cannot just put huge projects in the middle of underdeveloped neighbourhoods and expect positive results. It will not happen; development is about people. This particular project would have had a very big negative impact on the people of Lamu if it were not being looked at very closely and the necessary environmental action taken. It just seems like it is being pushed like a rollercoaster from the centre. It is very good that those people have come out to protest. The courts have stopped the project temporarily until the issues concerning the people are addressed.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Fair enough. Hon. Rindikiri, Member for Buuri, followed by Hon. Kimani.

Hon. Mugambi Rindikiri (Buuri, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. The purpose and responsibility of the Committee on Decentralised Funds is to audit the implementation and effectiveness of the funds that go through the NG-CDF kitty, and to check whether they comply with the purposes and benchmarks set for such funds to effectively meet their obligations. I agree that this Fund plays a great role. However, by now, the Committee should be able to tell this House whether this Fund is adding value to the taxpayers who contribute the money allocated to this Fund.

The Committee went out to assess its effectiveness, and what they are presenting to us is the Report that they have prepared for the last 10 years. The Committee should have come up with benchmarks against which they would go out there and evaluate how the Fund is performing. Firstly, the Committee should have identified the human resource requirements for constituency offices managing the fund, including accountants, procurement officers, clerks, Project Management Committees (PMCs), and even the fund managers themselves.

Secondly, there is a lot of bureaucracy when it comes to the approval of funds. The process of identifying priorities, submitting them to the head office, sending them back to the constituencies and then back to the head office for approval before authority to incur is given is cumbersome. Those are the key issues the Committee should focus on. It is not for us to start saying every day that this Fund is doing the right thing because, obviously, that is the purpose for which it was established.

In terms of its operation, therefore, the Committee should come up with benchmarks. They need to tell us where the Fund is falling short. As previous Members have mentioned, constituencies have different needs—the poverty levels are different, infrastructure levels are different, and the levels of marginalisation are different. I agree that the basic allocation should

be 100 per cent equal; however, it is the topping-up that I have an issue with. The Fund allocation is based on the number of wards. That criterion is wrong. For instance, my constituency is the largest in Meru, yet it is the most disadvantaged constituency.

Even when we are given equal allocation, topping up does not reflect the element of marginalisation or poverty level. That is what the Committee should be telling us. We need to be on time. There are reports out there saying that a certain constituency is doing very well in terms of NG-CDF activities. What criteria has been set to say this constituency is doing better than the other? Why do we see rankings of constituencies that are using more and more? These people should come to Buuri Constituency and tell me this is the reason why you are number 10 or number one.

Historically, just like my friend Hon. Kwenya has said, there are some constituencies which have been advantaged against others. My constituency, at that time, did not have representation in this Parliament. Therefore, I cannot be measured the same as constituencies which have been there since independence, which have benefited from growth of infrastructure historically. So, the Committee should give a statement and say this constituency is doing better than the other one despite the following, and they give the reasons.

As much as I commend the Committee's work, they should go a step further and try to make people understand why Buuri is being ranked number one while Garissa Township is ranked number 10. They should come up with that criterion. Going forward it is good that the Committee tells us their statement on why there is this bureaucracy because it has not come out clearly in their Report. And why should we be auditing 10 years backward? Why are we going 10 years behind? This does not help me. Let us audit the current years, that is, 2024/2025, 2025/2026, 2026/2027. For example, if I am a first-time Member of Parliament, I need somebody to speak on my performance during my time as a Member of Parliament. I was not a Member of Parliament between 2013 and 2017 but I am carrying the burden of what happened those days. So please give us the way forward so that we address the current issues.

I thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Kimani.

Hon. Kuria Kimani (Molo, UDA): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. In the last Parliament, I served in one of the audit committees, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which was chaired, then, by the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, Hon. Opiyo Wandayi. One of the observations I made with audit committees is that some of these audit reports come to this House 10 years later. By the time you are scrutinising the financial statements, you realise that the accounting officer left and is now an ambassador in China or somewhere, therefore it is not possible to say whether there was value for money or whether the financial statements present a true and fair account of what was happening on the ground.

But today is a fresh breath of air to see the Chairperson of the Decentralised Funds Accounts Committee give us financial reports of up to the year 2022/23, all the way from 2013 to about less than two years ago. So, I must congratulate this audit committee for their diligence and making sure that they cover a lot of ground so that as we scrutinise these financial records, they are a more reflection of what is happening in the use of NG-CDF.

I cannot understate the importance and what NG-CDF has done across the constituencies. I know this matter has been spoken to by the great Member for Kinangop, Hon. Kwenya, and so many other Members. At least NG-CDF has provided not just equity, but also equality across constituencies. For a very long time, Members of Parliament had to go and beg for development, including construction of a classroom in their constituencies.

Currently, with the oversight role played by Members of Parliament and the good, diligent work being done by committees across the constituencies, we see development being distributed equally and equitably across the country. Nevertheless, some constituencies still end up being disadvantaged. In some areas, projects were done pre-independence or around

independence. Some constituencies have had piped water in schools, while others are only now trying to catch up with the development through the prudent use of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF).

I have said before that I sometimes admire how Members of this House are able to go to their constituencies. For example, those who serve constituencies in Nyeri or Kirinyaga counties can attend a sitting here in the morning, rush to a meeting in their constituencies and come back in the afternoon like this time and still contribute in this House. This is because they have excellent roads that were done by the previous administrations. I am happy that at last that equity is catching up. Soon, with the completion of the Rironi-Mau Summit Road, it will be possible to hold a meeting in my constituency in Molo in the morning, make it to this House for the afternoon session, and still go back in the afternoon and check on and take care of my chickens and cows.

Having said that, I would also like to bring to the attention of this House that the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), of which I am privileged to be a fellow, is conducting the Financial Reporting (FiRe) Awards. These awards recognise constituencies with good financial reporting. The FiRe Awards champion transparency, integrity, and integrated reporting across East Africa. They recognise excellence in financial compliance and what is known as ESG reporting: environmental, social, and governance.

On the environment, they measure the credibility of financial statements in relation to climate risks, emissions, energy, water, waste, nature, and alignment with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) S2 on climate matters. On the social front, they measure parameters on staffing, safety, community, human rights, gender, supply chains, and labour. On governance, they measure parameters on board oversight of sustainable policies, incentives, ethics, related party, and the control environment.

I would encourage all our Members of Parliament to liaise with their committees, especially the fund managers. There are three days left to submit reports for the FiRe Awards, which take place at the end of every year. This will allow you to measure whether your fund manager is reporting in accordance with IFRS, especially considering those three parameters used for these criteria.

It is important to mention this, because many Members of this House have been subjected to extortion by people who tend to conduct polls from time to time and issue awards. Some of those awards are credible: they carry out credible research and opinion polls, and some organisations even go to the ground to measure the impact of performance of Members of Parliament on National Government funds. However, many do not. I know that some Members of this House have been subjected to extortion by people telling them that they will rank them in one position or another. It is important to mention to the House to take advantage of the FiRe Awards, where real measurements of accountability and financial reporting take place.

I must congratulate the drafters of our NG-CDF Act, especially this House and the previous ones, for making consequential amendments to the Act, especially in accommodating the issue of information, communications and technology (ICT) in NG-CDF allocations. We have seen digital hubs being built across the country. In Molo Constituency, we have already done four ICT hubs: in Sachangwan, Turi, Elburgon and Mariashoni. I was speaking with the Member for Dagoretti South, Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Communication, Information and Innovation, about equipping those ICT hubs with provision of computers from the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, and the staffing of these Jitume Digital Hubs so that our young people can be trained to access digital jobs around the world.

When there was a mention of *unafinya kompyuta unapata dola*, many people made fun of it. But it is amazing to see the models of Information Communication Technology (ICT) hubs that have been done across the country. Where we have young people across the country,

from Mandera, Mombasa, now in Molo, in Kisumu and other areas, at the comfort of their towns being trained and working on their computers at home, this is earning them a decent living on these online jobs.

It is also important to note that one of the largest firms in outsourcing these digital jobs has identified Kenya as a country to set base as an entry point to the rest of Africa. It is therefore very important to mention that ICT, technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are here and we must be ready. If we do not get ready, we will get bypassed.

I was speaking at some conference and I was challenging our financial sectors. A few years ago, when some of us started getting our first earnings in Nairobi, the first thing we did was to open a bank account. Some of us also got a cheque book. I remember how excited I was when I first got my first cheque book and I wrote my first cheque. Moving forward, so many of these young people that are clearing school now do not own bank accounts. What we have are mobile and digital wallets. The currencies they are trading in are these digital currencies; the cryptos like Bitcoins, Ethereum and others in that space. It is amazing to see that they now even have cards that you can convert one USDT (Tether) to another. They have platforms that facilitate these payments.

I remember when we were debating the Virtual Assets Providers Bill in this House, you rose and said that one of the challenges you have in your area is financial inclusion. Therefore, now bringing in more complicated technologies like Bitcoins, might increase the gap you know in terms of financial inclusion among those people. But then it is very important to realise that although that will be a possibility, the technologies are here with us and we must use the existing infrastructures, for example NG-CDF to make sure that our people are not left behind in this financial and digital inclusion. I congratulate the Committee on the timely reports they have brought to this House.

Thank you.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Yes.

Hon. Brighton Yegon (Konoin, UDA): Thank you very much for this opportunity. First of all, I support the 13th Report on Audited Financial Statements of NG-CDF for Constituencies in Five Counties. From the outset, I commend the Committee for bringing at least the audited reports for the last 10 years and making them almost up to date. In future if we could have current audited reports, they will help in bringing points of information and correction to some of the mistakes that come along with managing the funds.

The NG-CDF has brought transformation and paradigm shifts. One of the funds that is best managed because of how it was designed is NG-CDF. This fund is one of the best managed funds with regard to oversight and audit. It is managed under a national Government framework and a legal mandate that focusses on constituency-level projects. One of the NG-CDF mandates is to allocate school bursaries and scholarships. This has made our students equal on some level. Students from very humble backgrounds have benefited a lot from scholarship programmes. Even students from middle-class backgrounds have benefited from bursaries through the subsidisation of school fees.

Regarding school infrastructure, when you compare projects done by the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) with those done by the county governments, you will realise that the NG-CDF has transformed a lot. The NG-CDF projects are more visible. Proper management of NG-CDF projects will bridge the economic gap in the community by ensuring that renovated schools provide a conducive learning environment for students.

Regarding security, one of the mandates of the NG-CDF is to support administrative units by building chiefs' offices and police lines, which provide safety and security to citizens. One of the biggest roles of the NG-CDF is to provide emergency services. We are headed into the *El Niño* season during which most toilets, washrooms and lavatories will be swept away.

Even in normal weather conditions, roofs are blown off from some schools and other institutions. All these incidents are catered for by the emergency funds provided by the NG-CDF.

Some schools lack water but the NG-CDF assists them to sink boreholes or to get adequate water for sanitation. The NG-CDF has helped many schools to access clean water. The roads leading to some schools are inaccessible, but the NG-CDF has helped to repair them thus enabling students to access school facilities on time. The NG-CDF also supports environmental and climate conservation, which helps the society through planting fruit trees among others.

Decentralised funds have several functions. One of their greatest functions is to reduce regional disparities. If the NG-CDF was not distributed to every constituency, some constituencies would not have classrooms, bursaries or security. The NG-CDF has improved service delivery because students get their bursaries and scholarships on time. As envisaged by the Constitution of Kenya, the NG-CDF has encouraged public participation by citizens on priority matters. Every two years, there is normally public participation on how to dispense the NG-CDF and public engagement with the community on the important projects and priorities that communities want, so that when you are allocating money for a school, when you are allocating money for a scholarship, it is the community that informs you, that this year and next year, we require two more classrooms because JSS is graduating, we require a library in some schools, we require a laboratory, and that is what informs the allocation of resources through public participation.

Accountability is also provided. The biggest importance is the local oversight, the auditing, the monitoring and evaluation that goes on from the NG-CDF Committee, from the Member of Parliament who does the oversight on the projects that are being dispensed. Apart from the audited accounts, there are also several levels of checks and balances within the NG-CDF system, say from the drafting of proposals, to approval of proposals, to dispensing of the money, to procurement, public works, and all the way to final implementation. There are several checks and balances that govern the management of projects that have been approved to be undertaken.

The NG-CDF has enabled and supported economic growth. It has created opportunities, and there are so many people working on projects that are being undertaken in each and every village in Kenya. NG-CDF runs across the entire country, and this has created economic empowerment because there are contractors; there are people working on either contract-based or labour-based work throughout the projects that are running across the constituencies. This has enabled economic growth and created opportunities for employment, both for locals and businesses.

Comparing NG-CDF and county funds, I wish we had modelled the counties and county funds on a model like the NG-CDF model. Then we would have gotten more value for money with regard to project implementation. With those few remarks, I support this Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. (Dr) Makali Mulu.

Hon. (Dr) Makali Mulu (Kitui Central, WDM): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I want to start by appreciating the Committee led by Hon. Gideon Mulyungi from Mwingi Central and his Members for the work well done. They have done quite a number of reports, focusing on NG-CDF in many, many counties. When you look at these reports, they inform future implementation and improvement of our implementation framework. I say that because I know most of my colleagues have dealt so much with the merits of this good programme. I just want to focus more on areas which I think we could improve on.

Before I do that, for information purposes, when the Member of Parliament for Molo was making his contribution, he mentioned that there are things called FiRe awards, which are actually awards looking at accountability, and the constituencies have been appreciated for

good management of this fund. I want to go on record that Kitui Central was awarded last year among the five constituencies which were awarded, and we have also done the digital hubs in that constituency. I want to take this opportunity to thank my Board and the Fund Manager for work well done, because they take all the credit for that.

There is this issue of public participation. I want to use this platform to inform Kenyans that every two years, NG-CDF is required to conduct public participation; the Boards are expected to conduct public participation in their respective constituencies. It is that public participation which informs the projects to be funded by NG-CDF.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, this information is important for Kenyans because I have seen a situation where they go out of their way to start comparing constituencies, asking what is being done where and asking questions as to why this has not been done where. What informs what needs to be done where there are local needs. So, it is important that Kenyans know that NG-CDF is a localised fund. It is at the constituency level to take care of local needs. And on that basis, whatever the public says they want is what gets implemented by the Board. When you start comparing and saying this has been done here and not there, then you are being unfair to the process.

We have realized that, despite all this good work through NG-CDF, we need a clear implementation framework between NG-CDF and other government departments. I want to give an example of the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC). REREC has a provision for matching grants, where NG-CDF would provide some resources, and REREC would provide additional resources and then implement the projects. There is also an example where, in terms of accounting, the accountant is a national government officer. Then we have a fund manager who is an NG-CDF officer. So, they work very closely on a day-to-day basis.

The other important point is that there are cases where even the Bills of Quantities (BQs) are prepared by the State Department for Public Works. Now, where these interlinkages are in terms of work, you realize that at times NG-CDF might be very clear on what needs to be done, but the other side delays implementation. So, I think even as we move into the future and look at this Report by Hon. Mulyungi and his team, it is important to start thinking about what implementation matrix or strategies we need to bring on board for a smooth flow and implementation of projects.

I will give an example of Kitui Central Constituency. For the last two years, we have allocated resources for matching grants for REREC amounting to a tune of Ksh30 million. And you realize that even as of now, implementation has not taken place, despite the fact that we have done so for two years. So, when the Auditor comes and asks questions, we say we have transferred the money to REREC, but on the ground, this has not been implemented. So, you realize that we are not able to achieve what we want to achieve because the speed of implementation by our boards and the other government agencies seems to be differing. It is important to start narrowing this recommendation, so that we improve the implementation.

With those many remarks, Hon. Temporary Speaker, I appreciate Hon. Mulyungi and say, let us use this Report so that the lessons picked up by it can be used to improve implementation of this good programme called NG-CDF.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Makali, the gap in this case is a gap created by REREC.

Hon (Dr) Makali Mulu (Kitui Central, WDM): Exactly.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): REREC is a national government agency. You see what I mean? It is a parastatal.

Hon (Dr) Makali Mulu (Kitui Central, WDM): Yes.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): It is a frustration we are all suffering from because the projects in all the constituencies where REREC was supposed to implement

are not being implemented. They send the team to do what they call the labour contract itself, but the materials do not get there and so, this project has to be done all over again. So many of them might not get it done. So why do you not then move straight and deal with the national government agency that essentially is failing in its own role?

Hon. (Dr) Makali Mulu (Kitui Central, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I could not agree more. The point I am raising is that this, being a Committee on Special Funds, needs to pick these items and run with them. Because, as you are saying, this matter is cross-cutting. Every constituency is facing the same challenges. You realize it is not our own making. The Board has a list of funds.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Whether REREC is supposed to do these things through the matching funds or whether it is already an allocation by REREC to undertake a certain project in what you call mini-grids. I am sure you are talking about the mini-grids. They are not doing anything.

Hon. (Dr) Makali Mulu (Kitui Central, WDM): No, they are not working. I remember, Hon. Temporary Speaker, I think you were sitting in that Chair that day. We demanded that when we come back, (and now we are back), we needed to get the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, the CEO of REREC and the CEO of Kenya Power come to this House and explain to us and Kenyans why we are not moving, Hon. Temporary Speaker.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Precisely. So, you better put in that now. I will communicate this to the Hon. Speaker, so that he can invite the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, the CEO of REREC and the CEO of Kenya Power.

Hon. (Dr) Makali Mulu (Kitui Central, WDM): If those three people come here, then they can tell us what is happening. Thank you so much, Hon. Temporary Speaker, for the opportunity.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Fair enough. There does not seem to be any further interest in this case. I call upon the Mover to reply. Hon. Mulyungi, proceed to reply.

Hon. Gideon Mulyungi (Mwingi Central, WDM): Hon. Temporary Speaker, I appreciate the comments from the Members. I beg to reply.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Members, I defer the putting of the Question to another date.

(Putting the Question deferred)

Let us move to Order No. 14.

APPROVAL OF REPORT ON INSPECTION
VISIT TO KENYA EMBASSY IN EGYPT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Kwenya, I presume you are doing it for the Chairperson.

Hon. Kwenya Thuku (Kinangop, JP): Indeed, Hon. Temporary Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity.

Hon. Temporary Speaker I beg to move the following Motion:

THAT, this House adopts the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on its inspection visit to the Kenyan Embassy in Cairo, Egypt undertaken from 26th to 30th March 2026, laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, 28th July 2026.

The inspection visit was taken by on behalf of the Committee by Hon. Yusuf Abdi, who was the leader of the delegation and Hon. Caleb Amisi, a Member of the Committee. The visit

was conducted pursuant to the Committee's oversight mandate under Standing Order 216 and formed part of the Committee's approved Work-Plan for 2025/2026 Financial Year. The objective was to assess the operational effectiveness of the Mission, its delivery of consular services, promotion of economic diplomacy, management of public resources and the challenges affecting its performance.

The Mission is particularly significant because in addition to Egypt, the Embassy in Cairo is accredited to Jordan and Eritrea, giving it broad diplomatic, economic, security and consular mandate across three countries. The Kenya Embassy in Cairo occupies a strategic position in advancing Kenya's foreign policy interests across North Africa and the Middle East. The Mission is responsible for promoting Kenya's interest in Egypt, Jordan and Eritrea, managing bilateral relations, advancing trade and investments, facilitating joint commissions and joint trade committees, providing consular services, supporting the diaspora, and lobbying for Kenyan candidatures in international organisations.

Kenya and Egypt have a long-standing relationship dating back to the struggle for Kenya's Independence. Egypt played a supportive role during that period including through Radio-Free Africa operated from Cairo. The two countries continue to enjoy cordial relations and have maintained high-level political engagement. The Mission therefore represents an important platform for Kenya's engagement not only with Egypt but also with the wider Middle East and North Africa region.

Hon. Temporary Speaker, the Committee recognised the considerable progress made by the Mission in advancing Kenya's diplomatic and national interest. The key achievements of the Mission are as follows:

1. It has strengthened bilateral relations with Egypt, Jordan and Eritrea through high-level diplomatic engagements.
2. It has seen the implementation of Joint Commission for Cooperation Framework and other bilateral engagements.
3. It has promoted trade, investment, education and security cooperation; facilitated scholarships for Kenyan students including opportunities in medicine, engineering and computer science; and facilitated training of Kenyan internal security and military officers in areas such as counter-terrorism and VIP protection.
4. It has provided consular services and assistance to Kenyans in distress, continuous registration of the diaspora, documentation and authentication services, prison visits and support to Kenyans facing detention, sickness, repatriation and other emergencies.

The Committee therefore acknowledges that the Mission continues to deliver substantial diplomatic, economic and consular value despite operating under significant resource constraints.

Regarding Kenya-Egypt relations and economic opportunities, Kenya and Egypt have strong historical and diplomatic relations. Seven sessions of the Joint Commission for Cooperation have been held in Nairobi, with the most recent taking place from 5th to 7th March 2024. However, the Committee observed that the strong political relationship has not yet translated into sufficient economic and developmental outcomes.

Egypt is currently Kenya's tenth largest trading partner and the second-largest importer of Kenyan tea. There is, therefore, considerable scope for Kenya to diversify its exports beyond tea, coffee and agricultural products. This will promote value addition and expand access to Egyptian and wider markets.

The Committee also identified opportunities to leverage Egypt's expertise in renewable energy, irrigation, agricultural technology and water resource management. Kenya should further pursue access to housing and commercial spaces in Egypt's special economic zones.

This will facilitate the storage, distribution and re-export of Kenyan products in the Middle East and North Africa.

On the opportunities in Jordan and Eritrea, the Cairo Mission also provides Kenya with an important platform for engagement with Jordan. Kenya and Jordan have strong economic and security relations. Jordan has trained more than 60 Kenyan Air Force officers in aviation, counter-terrorism tactics and specialised military skills. This has demonstrated the depth of defence cooperation. At the same time, the presence of more than 3,000 Kenyans in Jordan, many of them in unskilled labour and hospitality, highlights the need for stronger labour cooperation and protection frameworks.

With regard to Eritrea, relations have improved significantly, particularly since the introduction of a visa-free regime in 2023. Opportunities exist in agriculture, energy, fisheries, transportation, water management, mining, tourism and blue economy. However, Kenya continues to serve Eritrea through accreditation from Cairo. The Committee, therefore, sees a strong case for establishing a resident diplomatic mission in Asmara.

Regarding diaspora and consular services, one of the most significant areas examined by the Committee was the welfare of Kenyans in the Mission's area of accreditation. The Mission supports approximately 5,000 Kenyan residents in Egypt, Jordan and Eritrea. It provides services including registration, passport and documentation assistance, translation and authentication, emergency assistance, and prison visits. It also provides support in cases of arrest, detention, sickness and repatriation.

In the last five years, the Mission undertook nine consular visits to Kenyans incarcerated at Al-Qanater Prison. The Committee nevertheless found that the growing number of Kenyans in distress has placed considerable pressure on the Mission. This is particularly the case when nationals lack proper documentation or require urgent medical, legal or humanitarian assistance.

On the protection of Kenyans abroad, the Committee had serious concerns relating to discrimination, exploitation, sexual and gender-based violence, lack of protection, lack of legal protection, illegal documentation, arrests, detention and deportation. Many Kenyan migrant workers in Egypt and Jordan are engaged in formal or unregulated employment. This exposes them to exploitation and limits their access to legal protection and social security. The Committee, therefore, considers the protection of Kenyans abroad a central responsibility of foreign policy. It recommends stronger bilateral and legal mechanisms to safeguard our citizens.

On the need for a consular emergency fund, Hon. Temporary Speaker, the Committee was particularly concerned that emergency medical and other urgent assistance often depends on contributions from Kenyans in the diaspora. In Egypt, community members have, at times, had to raise hospital deposits and medical bills, averaging approximately US\$800 before external assistance can be secured.

The Committee, therefore, recommends the establishment of a dedicated consular emergency fund to support Kenyans in distress through legal aid, medical assistance and repatriation. It also recommends the establishment of safe houses or temporary shelters for Kenyans facing abuse, exploitation or displacement.

On infrastructure and assets, the Mission operates entirely from leased premises, including the Chancery, Ambassador's residence and staff houses. This increases recurrent expenditure and limits long-term sustainability. The Government of Egypt has directed diplomatic missions to progressively relocate to the new administrative capital within five years. The Mission has identified suitable land in the diplomatic zone, and negotiations on acquisition are ongoing. The Committee recommends that the Government expedite the acquisition of land and development of a permanent Chancery and official residence. The

Committee also noted that most of the Mission's furniture is old and worn out, while its ICT equipment, including computers, is more than 10 years old and hence obsolete.

On financial and operational constraints, the Mission faces inadequate financial resources, foreign exchange losses, staffing shortages and lack of specialised personnel. Its expanded mandate across three countries has not been matched by corresponding institutional capacity and financial resources. As a result, the Mission is often required to prioritise urgent consular and humanitarian interventions at the expense of longer-term strategic engagement. The Committee therefore recommends enhanced budgetary allocation, appropriate financial safeguards against foreign exchange fluctuations, and recruitment of additional personnel with specialised expertise in legal, labour and consular services.

On air connectivity, the Committee identified the reinstatement of Kenya's direct flight to Cairo as an important opportunity for safeguarding trade, tourism, business and travel, as well as diplomatic engagement. Cairo is a major aviation hub linking Africa with Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Improved connectivity would, therefore, enhance Kenya's access to international markets.

There are key recommendations here. For emphasis, I wish to particularly emphasise the following recommendations:

1. Establish a dedicated consular emergency fund within six months.
2. Establish safe houses or temporary shelters for Kenyans facing abuse, exploitation or displacement.
3. Fast-track bilateral agreements with Egypt and Jordan.
4. Strengthen legal support systems within Kenyan missions.
5. Designate the Kenya Mission in Cairo as a registration centre for national identification documents and passports.
6. Develop a comprehensive export diversification and market penetration strategy for Egypt and the wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
7. Operationalise a Joint Trade Commission with Egypt and implement existing trade and investment agreements.
8. Expedite the establishment of a resident diplomatic mission in Eritrea.
9. Allocate resources in the Financial Year 2027/2028 for the acquisition of diplomatic properties, including the Chancery and official residence in Cairo.
10. Enhance the Mission's budget and recruit specialised legal, labour and consular personnel.
11. Strengthen engagement with Egypt on visa, residency, work permit and identification processes.
12. Establish a structured and continuous registration framework for Kenyans residing in Egypt.

In conclusion, the Committee's inspection established that Kenya's Embassy in Cairo remains a critical pillar of Kenya's foreign policy and consular engagement in North Africa and the Middle East. The Mission has made notable progress in diplomacy, trade promotion, security cooperation, education and diaspora services. However, its expanding mandate across Egypt, Jordan and Eritrea requires commensurate investment in staffing, funding, infrastructure and specialised services. The Committee believes that the implementation of these recommendations will strengthen the Mission, protect Kenyans abroad, unlock economic opportunities and enhance Kenya's strategic position in the region.

I beg to move and ask the House to adopt this Report and call upon the relevant ministries to implement its recommendations within the stipulated timelines. I now, with your permission, Hon. Temporary Speaker, request Hon. Yusuf Hassan to second this Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Proceed, Hon. Yussuf Hassan.

Hon. Yusuf Hassan (Kamukunji, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to second the Motion for the Adoption of the Report of the Departmental Committee on Defence, Intelligence and Foreign Relations on the inspection visit to the Kenyan Embassy in Cairo, Egypt undertaken from 26th to 30th March 2026. I had the honour of leading the delegation that undertook this inspection visit together with Hon. Caleb Amisi, who is a Member of the Committee.

I support the Report's recommendations. The Committee's visit demonstrated that the Kenyan Embassy in Cairo is doing important work under difficult circumstances. The Mission is simultaneously managing diplomatic relations with three countries, promoting trade and investment, protecting Kenyans abroad, providing counselling services and responding to humanitarian and security related situations. We owe it to our citizens and to the officers representing Kenya abroad to provide the Mission with the resources and institutional support necessary to perform this mandate effectively. At the same time, we must ensure that our strong political relations with Egypt, Jordan and Eritrea translate into jobs, investment, trade, skills, security cooperation and better protection for Kenyans.

I urge the House to adopt the Report and support its recommendations. I beg to second.

(Question proposed)

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Yes, Hon. Mogaka.

Hon. Stephen Mogaka (West Mugirango, JP): Thank you very much, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I rise to support the Report and the recommendations therein. Our foreign service is one of the vehicles for international relations, diplomacy, commerce and peace and stability of the Globe. I commend the Committee for its elaborate report and the initiative to visit Egypt.

Egypt is known for historical, biblical and Christian reasons. It is one of those countries that Kenya cannot do without. I have been there severally leading basketball and volleyball teams. Egypt is a destination that Kenya must always embrace. The River Nile empties into the Mediterranean Sea through Egypt.

I must declare my interest. My spouse works with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs and, therefore, I know quite a lot about what the Ministry does. That is why I truly celebrate the efforts made by this Committee in tabling this Report. I support the Motion.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Under such circumstances, ordinarily the Mover would be called upon to reply. Unfortunately, you will take exactly one minute to reply.

Hon. Kwenya Thuku (Kinangop, JP): Thank you, Hon. Temporary Speaker. I am happy to know that this Report did not elicit a lot of interest because we had a similar one and there is some level of homogeneity in our reports based on the needs that we have in our embassies and missions. Therefore, I beg to reply.

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Members, under the circumstances I will not be able to put the Question. The Question will be put at an appropriate time in future.

(Putting the Question deferred)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Hon. Farah Maalim): Hon. Members, the time being 7.01 pm., this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, 30th September 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

(The House rose at 7.01 p.m.)

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